

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1847-1859

Folder 1 of 9

Bath July 13 1847

Come F Childhood. J. B. Peck

It was on an autumn's eve at closing day
The sun had just reclined beneath the west
All nature seemed to enjoy the quiet rest.

That lingered on Aurora's calm decay

2nd

The sun was hid but ^{yet} his rays he threw
In limpid streams upon the varying sky.
With such bright pageantry that well might vie
With the arch'd rainbow's septenary hue

3^d

The little warblers of the quiet grove
Twitted their sleek wings and chirped themselves to sleep
The timorous hare did in her covert creep

And fluttered to her nest the weary dove

4th

'Tis now sweet twilight's melancholy hour
No sound is heard save as the whippowill
Rings his shrill notes upon the distant hill

Frightning fond lovers by his foeboding power

5th

This is the hour I love. I love it well
When dusky Twilight flings her hallowed ^{spell}
When in the lapse of Nature, parting day
Flings only back one fond and lingering ray

6th

When peeping neath yon azure clouded fold
The evening star with rapture I behold
Say does there live on Earth such mighty hand
Could wield a pen my feelings to command?
When left alone near some ambrosial grove
As Venus throws her rays, in beams of love
From yon bright star that hovers o'er the west.

When freed from yoke to take their evening rest
The lazy herd recline beneath the shade
Of yon huge oak, in numerous circles laid
This is the hour congenial to my mind.

While dying zephyrs sigh softly on the wind
The busy world of insects now are hushed
And now and then a radiant moonbeam blushed
And then dark shadows would fly across the vale
Chased only by each spectred moonbeam pale

When even to ^{increase} ~~an~~ the silent pause
Each wave broke noiseless on the rock rim'd shores
When owlets flap their ghostly wings to night.
No woleful screams as on they took their flight
All nature seems to languish into death
As dusky night puffs round her gloomy breath

'Tis melancholy yet I love to roam
Near some lone spot to think upon my home
And can I think upon a fonder theme?
Did ever yet through mem'ys clouds e'er gleam

A thought that strikes the soul with more delight
Than thoughts of home? O memory lend now thy might
Waft me once more upon my native land
In memory now on Hampton's soil I stand!

9th

Quick as the circling sound borne on the wind
The thoughts of other days rush on my mind
I tread the glittering halls of Fancy's spell
And on the thoughts of "Home + childhood" dwell

10th

There are some thoughts that strike the tender strings
Of hardened hearts: The plaintive voice oft rings
Within their ears. Oft do they try to efface
The tell tale tear that moistens their rugged face
I've seen them oft roll down their stubborn cheek
And oft they've made the effort not to weep

11th

Even the felon, though seared his soul: how oft
That tender pang, breathes on his heart so soft
That he resolves to change his black stained life
And war no more 'gainst Nature's struggling strife

12th

It is when silent and alone. His mind
Waked by the murmurings of the sighing wind
Recurrs back to the thoughts of childhoods years
When ne'er upon his eyes remorse's tears
Dim'd the bright vision of his happy youth
But trod the paths of innocence and truth

[Faint handwritten notes on a separate piece of paper, possibly a continuation or related text.]

13th

That is the thought that thunders at his soul
He looks upon his life so dark and foul
It is the whisperings of his early home
Which with such power to his heart has come

14th

Yes when he muses on a parents love
The guardian precepts taught from Heaven above
I will strike his rocky soul, like Heavens stroke
When hurling lightnings on the towering oak

15

The dim eyed tenant of the dungeons gloom
Feels something heavier than his lawful doom
When all around his damp grim visaged wall
Dull beams from his small grated windows fall
His lonely taper scarce able to reveal
Enough of light to show his scanty meal
Thinkest thou his dungeon walls so damp & cold
Are all that weighs upon his troubled soul?

16

No — alas! his thinking once he was a boy
His path was strewn with flowers of hopeful joy
He once was happy, innocent — and now
Remorse rankling wrath entwines his brow
He thinks of home, his once gay happy home
And sighs that he did e'er from it roam
The keenest thought that draws his bitter tears
Is the fond thought of Home, and childhoods years

17th

So oft I think. But thank kind providence
I cherish still my boyish innocence
Would that she could influence Fortunes
To favor me. Ah! soon for Home
And never would I say (which
The word, which now I'm forced

University of Virginia
April 10. 1858

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter of the 3^d inst, I have to say, that there will be no difficulty in your being reinstated in your former position, as state student, should you return to the University when the lectures are resumed.

I think a distinction on Senior Mathematics would be considered as equivalent to two distinctions on the Junior course, in reference to the degree of A.B. It seems however that you have taken but one distinction (at the intermediate examination) on Junior Greek. The enactments require a distinction at the intermediate and final examination. This difficulty might be removed by your re-entering the Greek class and taking a distinction at the final examination, this session.

The health of the University & vicinity now appears to be good, and we have every reason to hope that when the lectures are resumed there will be no return of the sickness which prevailed up to the time of the suspension.

Very respectfully
S. Manly

Mr Wm H. Peck

1 pg ink

(William Hope Peek)

University of Virginia
April 10, 1858

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter of the 3rd which I have to say that there will be no difficulty in your being reinstated in your former position as state student should you return to the University when the lectures are resumed.

I think a distinction on Senior Mathematics would be considered as equivalent to two distinctions on the junior course in reference to the degree of AB. It seems however that you have taken but one distinction (at the intermediate examination) on Junior Greek. The enactments require a distinction at the intermediate and final examination. This difficulty might be removed by your reentering the Greek Club and taking a distinction at the final examinations this session.

The health of the University & vicinity now appears to be good and we have every reason to hope that when the lectures are resumed there will be no return of the sickness which prevailed up to the time of the suspension.

Very respectfully
S. Maufin

Mr. Wm H Peek

H. April 2nd 1859

My dear Miss

I received your letter together with the sketch of the speech to day and proceed to answer immediately. I was very much pleased at it; but think that that mode of treating the subject "rather too deep as I have never studied ~~the Philosophy of the mind of~~ Philosophy. Some parts I can make suit my purposes very well. This is the manner in which I propose to treat the subject, "A True Man": First an introduction after the manner of the very admirable one you have sent, proceed to the American C. and then I wish to tell what a "True Man" is. What kind of a character must be necessary to make a T. M. I wish to speak something about character in my introduction. What constitutes Character? &c Then I will bring up those very essential qualities which you have give me: ^{my} Judgment, Decision strong will &c I shall in this way endeavor to make a systematic address something after the manner of my last speech before the Society & Public "Our Duties as Citizens." which Cousin James said, the other day at our dinner table, was the only speech written at our last commencement, strictly speaking. You have aided me a good deal in your letter in arranging &c. though I have not arranged it fully yet I have made up my mind how to treat it (as above) but the heads of the different parts

any qualities essential to a true man will be received with kindness and thankfulness -

I have to get now, some at least, any piece of poetry or any thing you may see which pertains to my subject and which I can bring in under any of the heads of the qualities to make a true man I would thank you for. I am under many obligations thus far. I will lay aside the subject now and take up my pen in rather a more pleasant way to you I reckon,

I told Charley to direct his next letter to Fanner's Grove P.O. Southampton Co. Va. Charley, though, is sick at present. Not long since he was very much distressed as to his bowels which cost him over a week and resulted in the loss of much flesh. He had, however, recovered from that and on night before last, or the night before that, we were all playing out in the street about 11 O'clock. It was a very strange game we were playing too, "Mocking Cats" and Charley would do it with so much resemblance of the cat itself that all would laugh unmercifully at him. We had succeed in fooling a number of the neighbors, all thinking that they were cats fighting and according some one to drive them off. Well, we sent Charley and Roc across the street before Mr Tompkins' door to fool Mr Stone on the opposite side, but to make it seem more like cats fighting, Charley proposed that we throw a brick over and let it burst on the

pavement thus scaring the cats off. Portie must have the pleasure of throwing that brick any how, although, I, fearing to let him do it, wished to throw it myself; but no he fired away and the result was that the brick went over the boy's heads right into Mr Tompkins' front door causing a great noise bursting and spangling in the ~~panch~~.

Of course every body ran off as hard as they could Charley & Roc ran across the street at full tilt Charley a head, it being a dark night they could not see very well and before he knew it Charley rushed at full speed against our evening post which hurled him back upon the ground cutting his head and lip very badly he was picked up by Daniel who did not run. He at no time lost his senses and after bathing it in cold water he felt a good deal better. The shock was so great that he became sick at his stomach, but did not vomit. He got up the next morning and went to Uncle Jesse who dressed it for him. He is walking about with his head tied up, but it is a good deal better and in one or two days more, perhaps, he will go with out his bandage - Little Jesse had also been sick (not at all serious) for the last 3 or 4 days. With those exceptions we are all very well. Excuse my writing to day as I am in a hurry. Did you fool your scholars on the 1st of April by not keeping school?

my respects to that young lady who contributes
more than the rest to make your time pass pleasantly
if she has ever heard of me; send my respects to
Warwick. They are going to have a grand
concert over the College on the 1st of
April. Have you received an invitation?
Miss Anna sent me one for which I am much
obliged &c —

Farewell yours aff.

George


The magazines are gone and a weekly

Have you heard anything certain about Bro Thomas and his intended
wife lately? He will not tell us any thing about her
He says that Mr Barlow will come home with him
I am very much puzzled to know what I shall do
next year. If Bro. Thomas marries a rich wife and
wants to carry me back with him, I shall want
to go — 9.

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1861

Folder 2 of 9



University of Va.
Jan'y. 20th 1861.

Dear Brother,

I was glad to get a letter from you last week - Saturday I believe.

I feel that you are amid enemies and although I cannot apprehend any immediate harm to you, nevertheless I know that they have no good feeling for you or your Section; and, no doubt, you can't feel at liberty to express yourself so freely as amongst us -

But soon (I am affraid before the 4th of March) you will be compelled to leave for home, or submit to humiliation incompatible with honor. To day we get a despatch stating that Ft Sumpter has threatened the redoubt at Charleston and will fire upon them if their operations are not suspended.

The Gov. had demanded the surrender of the forts. I also see that the people in Hampton & Norfolk are very much excited and are clamorous for taking Old Point.

On Wednesday night (2nd) Gov. J. M. Floyd addressed a very large audience in the town hall.

It was a great treat to hear the old man talk. After telling us the incident that caused him to withdraw and the whole history of the Cabinet & administration since the present troubled state of the country he told the people that coercion was already upon them; and: "He ^{who} dallies is a dastard, and he ^{who} doubts shall be a — ?"

He told us how Gen. Scott came to be sent for. Cobb had resigned and left him alone to contend for justice, equity and right. He was opposed to sending any troops South whatever. Would not reinforce Monroe. Cass resigned. He ^{was} a noble and a great Old Man, who reflected the sentiments of his people. He had promised South Carolina that Monroe should be reinforced; they had promised him that it should not be stormed while things were status quo; and he thought that Mr. Buchanan had promised them the same but wouldn't SWEAR to it. The President came to him and said: "Mr. Floyd how about Charleston harbor?" "Just as about Charleston Mr. President. Aint you going to reinforce Anderson? No I am not going to

reinforce Anderson; and I thought that was settled upon". Then, will you send for Gen. Scott? Yes, I'll send for Gen. Scott. He thought of Gen. Scott as Virginia's son with her awards of honor hanging upon his person. A son of whom she might well be proud. The victor of many battlefields with the smell of the fire upon his clothes. He did not think of him as a military Chief-
-ten of iron will accustomed to despotism and tyranny. However, he felt rather dubious. He sent also for Jeff. Davis & Mr. Hunter. Gen. Scott came: he pulled out a paper — a paper! He was a military man; and had a plan for choking the South into measures for preying upon her very vitals. For manning every fort, for stationing a fleet along her coast to collect the revenue and called it not coercion. He was to order troops to the forts of Mississippi &c and to occupy Old Point with 2500. When they came to Old Point that fortress Monroe so much needed when an enemy was amongst us in 1812. He asked: "What for?" That question was not answered "What for?" and it never would be

he answered in any other way than to coerce his dear old state. That the guns of fort Monroe placed there for the protection of his proud old Commonwealth should be turned against her, should vomit upon her bosom death & destruction. He could not stand it. He thought Scott was a Virginian. He asked if he would fight against her if she seceded. Scott said he had not committed himself. He told him that his bones should bleach upon the dunghill before he'd do it. He would not submit to it.

Mr. Davis & Gen. Scott like to had a fight. It was settled that troops should not be sent South as the most expedient way for peace. The news came that Anderson had broken the status quo. He demanded according to pledged faith that he should be withdrawn entirely from the harbor - It was refused. He resigned, and there he was - And you never heard such yelling & hooting, clapping &c in your life. He says the northern papers call these "secrets of the cabinet" or "cabinet secrets" &c - - were not. He didn't notice them though &c -

Excuse me for attempting to give some things that Mr. Floyd said, for he spoke over 2½ hours and was repeatedly applauded. Think that we must secede. 2 letters from Hampton report no news. I am sorry Bro: Thomas has not done so well. I am sure he had failed in some of his expectations - the public printing has gone out of his hands (never was true) I reckon - Yours aff: Bro: George M. Beck

(George Meridyth Peek)

1

4 pg ink

University of Va.
Jan'y 20th 1861

Dear Brother,

I was glad to get a letter from you last week - Saturday I believe.

I feel that you are amid enemies and although I cannot apprehend any immediate harm to you, never the less I know that they have no good feeling for you or your section ; and no doubt you cant feel at liberty to express yourself so freely as amongst us -

But soon (I am affraid before the 4th of March) you will be compelled to leave for home ; or submit to humilitation in compatible with honor. To day we got a dispatch stating that Ft. Sumpter has threatened the redoubt at Charleston and will fire upon them if their operations are not suspended.

The Gov. has demanded the surrender of the fort. I also see that the people of Hampton & Norfolk are very much excited and are clamorous for taking Old Point.

On Wednesday night (ex) Gov. T.B. Floyd addressed a very large audience in the town hall. It was a great treat to hear the old man talk. After telling us the incident that caused him to withdraw and the whole history of the Cabinet & Administration since the present troubled state of the country he told the people that coercion was already upon them. And "He who dallies is a dastare and he who doubts shall be D _____ ^{of} ~~man~~".

He told us Hon Gen Scott came to be sent for. Cass has resigned and left him alone to content for justice, equity, and right. He was apposed to sending any troops south what ever - Would not reinforce Moultrie. Cass resigned he (Cass) was a noble and great Old Man who reflects the semtiments of his people. He has promised South Carolina that Moultrie should not be reinforced. They have promised him that it should not be stormed while things were status quo, and the thoughts that Mr. Buchanan had promised them the same but wouldnt swear to it.

The President came to him and said " Mr Floyd how about Charleston Harbor ? Inst so about Charleston Mr President arn't you going to reinforce Anderson ? No I am not going to reinforce Anderson, an I thought that was settled upon. " " Then will you send for Gen Scott ? Yes, I'll send for Gen Scott. " He thought of Gen Scott as Virginia's son with her award of honor banging upon his person. A son of whom she might be proud. The victor of many battlefields with the smell of fire upon his cloths. He did not think of him as a military chieften of iron will accustomed to despotism and tyranny. However, he felt rather dubious : He sends also for Jeff Davis & Mr. Hunter. Gen Scott came, he pulled out a paper - a paper ! He was a military man, and had a plan for choaking the south into measures for praying upon her very vitals. For maning every fort, for stationing a fleet along her coast to collect a revenue and called it not coercion. He was to order troops to the forts of Mississippi ec and to occupy Old Point with 2500. When they came to Old Point that fortress Monroe so much needed when an enemy was amongst us in 1812 -

(George Meridyth Peek)

1 pg 2

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Your aff Bro :

George M Peek

1867

Ship Point, Sunday afternoon Aug. 25th

Dear Willie,

The long and much desired 14th of August, has come and past, and where am I, still at Ship Point, no better off than before. Oh, when will the time come for me to be released from this state of bondage, to be from under the command of such men as Capt Smith & Ch. Mallory. It appears to me now, it never will, however I sincerely hope it is not far distant. The 1st Regt N C Volunteers are down here now, and a hard set they ^{are} too. Under the command of Lt Col Lee, they say an attack at this point was contemplated in York town when they received orders to march they came down double quick, arrived about 12 o'clock at night. everything was so very quiet they hardly knew what to make of it. I don't know where such an idea originated, but the officers must have heard something. The next day after their arrival, two detachments of Howitzers came down with the

same report, they are here now. amongst
them is the Miller who went to school to
Mr Cary, the son of Miller of the firm of
Selden & Miller Richmond. Father came to
see me to day, he says things remain
very quiet in his neighbourhood, no
Yankees been about there for several
weeks. I agree with you exactly, about
the way the Government affairs are
conducted. With the exception of the
secession ordinance there is not a particle
of difference between the old & new Gov-
ernments. It was Politics before and it
is politics now. It does not make any
difference about a mans qualifications
at all. He may be the biggest fool that
ever lived, if he is a good democrat
that is all that is necessary. I am
perfectly disgusted with all such proceed-
ings. Charlie went to see Miss Mollie Mon-
land to day, she does not live more
than two or three miles from this
place, no doubt he will have a good
time, as you are away she is a pretty
fast girl, and those are generally the
kind to see good times with. I am get-
ting quite tired of Ship Point. I hope we

will be sent somewhere else before long.
We are now attached to Col Croells Regiment
I hope he will order us to Wmzburg, before
winter, as that will be a much more
pleasant place for the winter than this.
If I should be fortunate enough to
get a furlough for eight or ten days
I will come to Richmond to see you all.
I fear however, the chances are very
slim, as I am not one of his favour-
ites, some of the men can get furloughs
almost any time, others cant get them
at all. I happen to be with the latter
class. We had a magnificent dinner
to day, baked ducks, & chicken, corn
& ham for the first course, 2nd course apple
pies & milk, dont you think that will
do very well for camp life, the widow
is having a nice time, no doubt with her
beau, exercising his horses. &c I expect
every day to hear of her marriage, wish
her a good time. Tell her she must not for-
get her friends, when that little affair
comes off. The 70th Regiment had a dress-
parade this evening, Col Mallory was on
the field, but only as a spectator, write again
soon and oblige, your true friend, D. M. Brown.

(letter to Wm. Peek from
Daniel G. Marrow)

3 pg ink

1861

Ship Point Sunday Afternoon Aug 25th

Dear Willie,

The long and much disired 14th of August has come and past, and where am I, still at Ship Point, no better off than before, oh when will the time come for me to be released from this state of bondage, to be from under the Command of such men as Capt Smith and C.K. Mallory. It appears to me now it never will, however I sincerely hope it is not far distant. The 1st Regt N. C. Volunteers are down here now, and a hard set they are too. Under the Command of Lt. Col Lee, They say an attack at the Point was contemplated in Yorktown when they received orders to march. They came down double quick arrived about 12 o'clock at night everything was so very quiet they hardly knew what to make of it. I dont know where such an idea originated but the officers must have heard something, the next day after their arrival, two detachments of Howitzers came down with the same report they are here now, amoungst them is Thos. Miller who went to school to Ms Cary, the son of Miller of the firm of Selden & Miller Richmond. Father came to see me to day, he says things remain very quiet in his neighbourhood, no Yankees been about there for several weeks. I agree with you exactly, about the way the Government affairs are conducted. With the exception of the secession ordance there is not a particle of difference between the old & new Government. It was Politics before and it is Politics now. It does not make any difference abouts mans qualifications at all. It may be the biggest fool that ever lived if he is a good democrate, that is all that is necessary. I am perfectly disgusted with all such proceedings. Charlie went to see Miss Mollie Moreland to day. She does not live more than two or three miles from this place, no doubt he will have a good time, as you are awair she is a pretty fast girl and those are generally the kind to see goodtimes with. I am getting quite tired of Ship Point. I hope we will be sent somewhere else before long. We are now attached to Col Ewells Regmt. I hope he will order us to WmBurg before winter, as that will be much more plesant place for the winter than this. If I should be fortunate enough to get a furlough for eight or ten days I will come to Richmond to see you all. I fear however, the chances are very slim, as I am not one of the favorites, some of the men can get furlough almost anytime, others cant get them at all, I happen to be with the latter class, We had a magnificent dinner to day, baked ducks & chickens, corn & ham for first course 2nd course apple pies, milk, dont you think that will do very well for camp life. The widow is having a nice time, no doubt with her beau, exercising his horses & ec. I expect every day to hear of her marriage, wish her a good time. Tell her she must not forget her friends when that little affair comes off. The N.C. Regiment has a dress parade this evening. Col Mallory was on the field, but only as a spectator, write again soon, and oblige your true friends.

D. S. Marrow

Memphis Sunday afternoon 2 o'clock

Dear Ma -

I arrived here safely and in first rate spirits about an hour ago. Mr. Knowlton to whom I had a letter of introduction - and who was to procure me a passport to go to Little Rock is out of town - but nothing daunted I went to the office and my pass from the Secy. of war at Richmond was sufficient so that I shall proceed tomorrow morning on my journey to L.R. unmolested.

The trip here has been far less disagreeable than I had anticipated - and I only hope the route to L.R. may be equally pleasant - I write this in a

hurry and according to promise
much to let you know that all
is well with me so far - when I
get to my journey's end, I will
write a longer letter - Love to
all -

affectionately
W. J. Peck

Mr J. Peck

Richmond

[ca Aug 1861]

1 1/2 pg incl

(William Hope Peek)
#9

Memphis Sunday Afternoon 2 o'clock

Dear Ma,

I arrived here safely and first rate spirits - about an hour ago - Mr. Knowltere to whom I had a letter introduction - and who was to procure me a passport to go to Little Rock is out of town - but nothing daunted I went to the office and my pass from the Secy. office at Richmond was sufficient so that I shall proceed tomorrow morning on my journey to L.R. unmolested.

The trip here has been far less disagreeable than I had anticipated - and I only hope the route to L.R. may be equally pleasant - I write - this in a hurry and according to promise merely to let you know that all is well with me so far - when I get to my journey's end I will write a longer letter - Love to all -

Affectionally
W.H. Peek

Mrs. I. M Peek
Richmond

Thank you my dear Tissy. For
your letter of the 7 of this month
which you may be sure was truly ac-
ceptable. I answered your letter from Willi-
amstun long since, and am sorry that you
did not get it. You are a sweet good
girl to write again, and I estimate the gentle
kindness which induced you to do so. Tissy
is always the sweet creature that you are
now kind to every one, especially to those
whom you deem worthy of your regard.
You tell me that your m^r is pleased
with Richardson. I am pleased to hear
thus, "One so good and kind as she," can never
want a ray of Sun Shine to illuminate her
path of life. She does not know how much
I love her and feel the loss of her so
sincerely, I hope I shall see again. At pres-
ent, we have not come to any conclusion
as to the future. If we could go to Porto
-mouthe by the middle or last of October

We should have the advantage of Lucy
with my James, but as yet I do not know.
We have passed through a hard trial
Dear little Jane Warren, has been at the
point of death, almost reduced by the
Whooping cough, she had scarcely the strength
remaining to take her through a violent
attack of Summer complaint, Anne's gra-
titude almost left her, as she wept, and we
shed night and day by the side of our poor
sufferer, Annie wrote for James to come
and provide a tender nurse, to Janie, and a
companion to Annie. Thanks Heaven the little
lady is almost well. She remembers Aunt
Janet, and the Strawberry, and talks of
home and home things, Anne Mallory is
like a little Fat kid. Bright and exceedingly
pretty, our Laura, will like any place so
she can be with Mr. Lake or near him,
Love my love to your dear Mamma &
Pa. and to all our dear ones, wherever they
are. Please tell me about all our dear
family, however scattered they may be.

I must now hasten to conclude. Mary
has sick, and thus my first day. Up to
a week. God bless you dear Sister, pray
your Aunt - Jane A. Hope

Warrenton. August. 29. 1861

Annie sends the kindest regards to your
Mamma, Jeff and the family. In which
I more than join her, I am sure.
A book if you can find it just here
August 29.

We heard from James to day, had a plea-
-sant letter from him, he sends his love to all
his dear friends, are your Brothers with
you, and has Willie a situation? I
hope he has, tell me of Dr. Hooper's family
to, and ^{it} all.
J. A. H.

(Marie S. Peek - Sis)

1

3 pg ink

Thank you my diar Sissy for your letter of the 7 of this month which you may be sure was truly acceptable, I answered your letter from Willamsburg long since, and am sorry that you did not get it. You are a smart good girl to write again, and I istimate the gentle kindness which induced you to do so. Siss is always the sweet creature that you are now kind to every one. especially to those whom you deem worthy of your regards. You tell me that your Ma is pleased with Richmond. I am pleased to hear this. " One so good and kind as She," can never want a ray of Sun Shine to illuminate her path of life, The does not know how much I Love her and feel the top of her socially, I hope I shall see again. At present, we have not come to any conclusions as to her future. If we could go to Portsmouth by the middle on last of October. We should have the advantage of being with my James, but as yet I do not know. We have papers through a hard trial dear Little Jane Barren, has been at the point of death all ready reduced by the Hooping cough, The had scarcely the strength remaining to take her through a violent atack of summer complaint, Annies fortitude almost lift her, as she ??? , and watches nigh and day by the side of our sweet Tafferson

Annie write for James, he came and proved a tender nurse to Janie. And a companion to Annie. Thank heaven the little lady is almost well. The remember Aunt Janet and the strawberries, and talks of home and home things, Annie Mallory is like a little Fat bird. Bright and exceeding pretty, Our Laura, nice likes any place so she can be with Mr. Peek or near him, Give my love to Your dear Mamme & Pa and to all our dear ones. whoever they are. Please tell me about all our dear family however scattered they may be. I must now hasten to conclude having been sick. And thus my first day up for a week. God help you diar Sissy
Your Aunt - Jane A Hope

Warrenton. August. 29 . 1861

Annie sends the kindest regards to your Mamma. Self and the family In which I more than join her, James sends a book if you can find it just here August 29.

We heard from James today, had a pleasant letter from him, he sends his love to all his dear friends. Are your Brothers with you, and has Willie a situation? I hope he has. Tell me of Dr. Hope & family and all. J.A. H.

Little Rock, Sept. 13 1864.

Dear Georgie.

I received a letter from Sis, yesterday, which was dated August 30th and brought as far as Memphis by Mr. Rapley who had business in N. Orleans & therefore sent the letter and bundles on ahead. Thus you see how long it takes a letter to get from Richmond out here even when brought by a messenger when they come about a week earlier than by mail. I have a great curiosity to know what coat that is - and what is contained in the bundle, wh. however will be very soon gratified as I shall go after it when I finish this letter.

I suppose I have seen nearly all your female acquaintances in L.R. but not one of the males for they are all off in the war. I think that of those I have yet seen if I were compelled to select a wife, she should be Miss Emma

Tucker. My acquaintance however is not a very extensive one comprising only 3 young ladies - viz - Miss Pector (P.D.) Miss Blanche Scott and Miss Emma Tucker. You can pretty well describe these young ladies - and answer all interrogatories concerning them.

Miss Tucker: I fancy would make a real loving acquainted I will not see - as their father
obedient wife - while Miss P. D. would be rather is the one whom the Johnsons selected to take
spirited and independent - and too apt to rebel the arsenal - and he is of course a Johnson man
and allow her inclinations and ~~to~~ desires to. The politics of the State have been very much
break down the barriers which her husband changed by the secession question - and you
would desire to keep up by means of some. would be surprised to hear how some men
I know she would never begin to suit me. It now stand. Mr. Jordan - a brother in Law to
might perhaps be considered a very great honor the Johnsons - a very wealthy man - and of
and all that to marry the Governor's daughter - course a most uncompromising enemy to the
but with my present tastes, and with all my Old Line Democrat - has subscribed 500% to
admiration for the young lady too - I would Bro Thos' new paper!! He says he will have
rather decline. There are some other ladies people understand he don't 'belong' to the
whom I intend visiting soon - among them family. It is very likely also that Mr. Mitchell
Misses Menick and Misses Woodruff - the another old Johnsonian will be supported
former I fear I will not admire much the by the Governor's party for the C. S. Senate -
latter I am almost certain will contend and certainly none of the delegation now
with Miss Tucker my present favorite. in Congress will get any countenance from
They say that Mr. Gaines is courting Miss it - and every nerve will be strained to
Fannie Woodruff and that he did court defeat "the big brother Bob" -
Sister Laura - so brother Thos. says it would things are really so very quiet out here
he too much for me to try to cut him out we can hardly realize there is a great war
there as he has already had his hopes going on. notwithstanding too that we have
blasted by one of the family. The Misses we has than 8 yankee prisoners here at
Faulkner who claim kin with Mr Thos' & The Arsenal. They seem very quiet in effect
with whom you probably became pretty well since persons - Mr. Thos. allows them some

privileges on parole - and because he
finds it difficult to get soldiers to guard
them.

The other day at least 4000 Arkansas Soldiers
were disbanded and went to their homes they
were under Mc Clellan and were engaged in
the Springfield fight. People out here say that
he is not fit for a general and not to be broken
of his convictions. He allowed himself
to be surprised at Springfield and some
of his regiments were cut to pieces. We don't
all be surprised if any thing is done in Mo.
So bunglingly are the movements carried on there.
People here have a rather poor opinion of the
administration - or rather the war part of it.

As yet I do not see any opening for me
in the army - I do not however entirely des-
pair - nor do I care so much out here what
or I get in or not. If I don't ill stick out
a shingle and try it a while so - and if
that don't succeed I'll try something else.

Represent me to all at home as being in
good spirits. Give my love to all enquiring
friends - and send us a letter occasionally.
Please pay subscription on the Examiner for
3 months and have it sent to me -

Your soe w. s. p.

(William Hope Peek)

Little Rock, Sepr. 13 1861.

3

4 pg emb

Dear Georgie,

I received a letter from Sis, yesterday, which was dated August 30th and brought as far as Memphis by Mr Rapley who had business in N. Orleans & therefore sent the letter and bundles on ahead. Thus you see how long it takes a letter to get from Richmond out here even when brought by a messenger where they come about a week earlier than by mail. I have a great curiosity to know what coat that is - and what is contained in the bundle, wh. however will be very soon gratified as I shall go after it when I finish this letter.

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Miss Tucker I fancy would make a real loving obident wife - while Miss P. D. would be rather spirited and independent - and too apt to rebel and allow her inclinations and to desire to break down the barriers which her husband would desire to keep up by measure of love.

I know she would never begin to suit me. It might perhaps be considered a very great honor and all that to marry the Governors daughter but with my present taste, and with all my admirations fo the young lady too - I would rather decline. There are some other ladies whom I intended visiting soon - among them Misses Numick and Misses Woodruff - the former I fiar I will not admire much tho' rather I am almost certian will contend with Miss Tucker my present favorite. They say that Mr. Gaines is courting Miss Fannie Woodruff and that he did court Sister Laura - so brother Thos. says it would be too crule for me to try to cut him out there as he has already had his hopes blasted by one of the family. The Misses Faulkner who claims kin with Bro. Thos. & with whom you probably became pretty well acquainted I will not see - as their father is the one whom the Johnson's selected to take the arsenal. and he is of course a Johnson man. The politics of the state here have been very much changed by the secession question - and you would be suprised to here how some men now stand. Mr. Jordan - a brother in Law to the Johnson's - a Line Democate. has subscribed 500\$ to Bro Thos! news paper!! He says he will have people understand he don't belong' to the family. It is very likely also that Mr. Mitchell another old Johnsonian will be supported by the Governor's party for the C. S. Senate and certainly none of the delega-tion now in Congress will get any countenance from it - and every nerve will be strained to defeat "the big brother Bob".

Things are really so very quiet out here we can hardly realize there is a great war going on. Notwith standing too that we have no less than 8 yankees prisoners here at the Arsenal. They sure very quiet in offensive persons - Bro Thos. allows them some privileges on parole - and because he finds it difficult to get soldiers to guard them.

(William Hope Peek)

3 pg 2

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As yet I do not see any opening for me in the army - I do not however enterely despair - nor do I care so much out here wheather I get in or not. If I don't ill stick out a shingle and try it awhile so - and if that don't succeed I'll try something else.

Represent me to all at home as being in good spirits. Give my love to all enquiring friends - and send us a letter occasionally. Please pay subscription on the Examiner for 6 months and have it sent to me -

Yours ec
W. H. P.

Arsenal Little Rock
September 16 1861.

Dear Sis

I received the letter which you wrote by Mr. Rapply - and the coat too. I suppose you all have since discovered that if I did leave my own coat behind I did not come away coatless for I have somebody's and have been wearing it ever since I've been here whenever I had occasion to wear a blk coat.

I missed my gloves out of the pockets - but thought I had mislaid them at home never once dreaming I had left the coat as well as gloves behind. I suppose the coat I have belongs to Charlie - and how he will ever get it again I can't well see. However it won't spoil here - and until he does get it I shall make the most of my mistake.

Last evening we all invited our selves to dine with her. Doctor and I had a very agreeable time. But that makes him out just as much at home

there as at our old home in Hampton
 and seems to be very well liked by all
 the family - You know Sister Laura &
 Gov^r Rector's children are first cousins
 and besides they are intimate and very
 fond of each other. I touched the champagne
 rather lightly at the table.
 A day or two after Gov^r R went to
 we are after his wife and baby and
 we moved round to his house to keep
 Miss Peck & her married sister com-
 pany while he was gone. This we had
 a most delightful time. Miss P. D. is
 very cheerful & lively and of course
 there were no old folks we soon
 well acquainted. At night we had
 cake & cordial with which to celebrate
 marriage of myself & Miss P. D. The
 ceremony being performed by Bro. M^r and
 so you see we must have spent the time
 in a very nice way. We remained there
 2 or 3 days & nights and would have
 returned to the ancestral, but a white
 rant girl here has the measles and
 fear Johnny might catch it we all

went out to Mrs Ropleys we welcome we are
 now staying.
 Governor Rector has 7 children of his first
 wife's and not long ago married a young
 lady about the age perhaps of his oldest
 daughter and she has presented him
 with another, so you see when his estate
 comes to be settled up among all the legates
 there will be but a small portion to each
 one. However after all the law-
 Miss Peck & her married sister com-
 pany, and if they are decid-
 ed in his favor his property will be very valu-
 able indeed - worth something near
 \$10,000 per year. It is useless for me
 to figure up for Miss P. D. is already
 engaged to a young Virginian, Capt.
 in the army. She however confesses
 great fickleness and may any day dis-
 cuss her mind than there will be a chance for
 your humble servant of which I shall
 endeavor not to avail myself. She is
 not of the proper disposition to suit me
 and I am afraid a good wife will
 be very hard to find in Little Rock.
 That is about the only reason why I

[16 Sept. 1861 / 5]

dislike living here (barring of course the separation from home folks) - viz - that if I marry I shall not be able to get some nice intelligent, good looking domestic Virginia lady - with a few dardies and some ready cash. Miss R. is very willful - has I think a high temper - and would very poorly submit to the inconveniences of a poor husband. Her sister however who is married did not get a rich one - and I think if the assistance the Gov. gives them were withdrawn they would soon feel the pinching of poverty.

Decidedly the best one I have met with in the vast number (3) I have become acquainted with is Miss Emma Tucker whose father is a merchant & a Virginian one of the most highly respected men in the place & a friend to Gov. Rector. We shake & are very highly of Boston. Thos. and his acquaintance with him. It has been so very warm since I have been here that there is very little inclination to go about

much and therefore I am still very little acquainted with the ladies of L. R. but I intend soon to become acquainted with them all except the intimate members of the Johnson circle - whom I shall give a wide berth. By the way, Dr. Jordan a brother in law of the Johnsons is dead. He was exceedingly wealthy and up to a very short time since entered into all their schemes and furnished us little of the money where with they effected their hold upon power. He has just resolved to declare a sort of war against them and had subscribed 500 ϕ to Bro. Thos. paper, which of course will never be forth coming - and now the Johnsons have more complete control of his wealth than ever before.

Those 3 regiments which Arkansas is to furnish are coming together very slowly indeed - and unless something is done to stimulate recruiting it is doubtful if they are ever raised. Then I shall not be so sure of an appointment but I will have all the recommendation they

Governor & Military Board can give. I shall not care much however if I don't succeed and Bro. Thos. says I ought not to be so anxious to go to the war. He thinks I ought to stick out my shingle at once - and he says I shall get the consent of Dr. Webb the oldest & largest practitioner in town to go in his office & offer my services to the commissary. He does not mean that I shall be a student or assistant to Dr. W. but merely have an office with him. The place, as far as I have seen, is very sickly indeed - and the fees are just double what they were in Hampton. 2/6 for a simple visit in town - and for as short a distance as Mrs. Napley's - about as far as Bethel or not quite so far from town - the fee is 4/6 in the day time and double at night I suppose.

Bro. Thos. thinks there will be no necessity for my having a horse. that if I should be called into the country I can hire one and that would be cheaper than keeping one - even if the hire was more than my fee, or if I never got the fee -

He thinks such an arrangement can be made with Dr. Webb and if so, there may expense at first will be next to nothing. If I had been practicing and they had employed me there has been sickness enough since I've been here in Mr. Rabley's & Bro. Rector's family, to amount to 50 or 75/6.

I would like very much to get some books and instruments if there any there, from Richmond - but how to get them here I can't tell. From Memphis to Little Rock is far worse than from Richmond to Memphis - and takes almost as much time. Will wait about that yet awhile -

My best love to all - and a hope that you all will write to me -

Affectionately
Collier

P.S. go to Mr. Sibley & study History Literature - Belle Lettres, French & Latin Drawing. Tell him I want you to study those & make the most of this session - but you must ask him to
W.S.H.

see what you have been doing at Mr. Carey's, if a better arrangement can be made do it. Perhaps it would be well if you could continue some branch of Mathematics - but drop that sooner than those I have mentioned

W.H.P.

(William Hope Peek)

1

Arsenal Little Rock

September 16 1861

8 pg ink

Dear Sis

I received the letter which you wrote by Mr. Rapley and the coat too. I suppose you all have since discovered that if I did leave my own coat behind I did not come away coatless for I have somebodys and have been wearing it ever since Iv'e been here whenever I had occasion to wear a blk coat. I missed my gloves out of the pockets but thought I had mislaid them at home never once dreaming I had left the coat as well as gloves behind. I suppose the coat I have belongs to Charlie - and how he will ever get it again I can't well see. However it wont shod - and until he does get it I shall make the most of my mistake.

Last wednesday we all invited our selves to dine with Gov'r Rictor and had a very agreeable time - Bro Thos. makes himself just as much at home there as our old home in Hampton and seems to be very well liked by all the family - You know Sister Laura & Gov'r Rector's children are first cousins and besides they are intimate and very fond of each other. I touched the champagne rather lightly at the table.

A day or two after Gov R went to Des Arc after his wife and baby and we moved round to his house to keep Miss Peeda & her married sister company while he was gone. There we had a most delightful time. Miss P. D is very cheerful & lively and of course as there were no old folks we soon got very well acquainted. At eight we had some cake & cordial with which to celebrate the marriage of myself & Miss P. D the ceremony being performed by Bro Thos. So you see we must have spent the time in a very nice way. We remained there 2 or 3 days & nights and would have returned to the arsenal, but a white servent girl here has the measles and for fear Johnny might catch it we all we all went out to Mrs. Rapleys ~~we~~ where we are now staying.

Govenor Rector has 7 children of his first wife's and not long ago married a young lady about the age perhaps of his oldest daughter and she has presented him with another, so you see when his estate comes to be settled up among all the ligatures there will be but a small portion to each one's share. However after all the law suits are decided, and if they are decided in his favor his property will be very valuable indeed - worth something near \$10,000 per year. It is usless for me to figure up for Miss P.D is already engaged to a yound Virginian Capt. in the army. She however confesses great fickleness and may anyday discard him & then there will be a chance for your humble servent of which I shall endeavor not to avail myself. She is not of the proper disposition to suit me and I am afraid a good wife will be very hard to find in Little Rock. That is about the only reason why I dislike living here (barring of course the seperation from home folks) - viz - that if I marry I shall not be able to get some nice intellegent, good looking domestic Virginia lady - with a few dardies and some ready cash. Miss R is very willful has I think a high temper - and would very poorly submit to the inconveniences of a poor husband. Her sister however who is married did not get a rich one and I think if the assistance the Gov' gives them were withdrawn they would soon feel the pinching of poverty. Decidedly the best one I have met with in the vast

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My best love to all - and a hope that you all will write to me.

Affectionately
Willie

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W.H.P.

See what you have been doing at Mr. Cary's & if better arrangements can be made do it. Perhaps it would be well if you could continue some branch of Mathematics - but drop that sooner than there I have mentioned.

W.H.P.

~~50~~ If any more letters come for me I respectfully request you will forward them without breaking the seal. I have a right to demand this - and hope some one is left behind who has enough regard for me to carry out a simple request. —

Little Rock Ark. Sept 27 1861.

Dear Sis.

Tho' I have written you at least half a dozen letters and received only one in reply to all and with the exception of one from Georgie, the only reply to all my letters since I have been here - yet I write once more according to my promise to write often.

The first thing that comes to my notice is the coolness of the weather which is remarkable. but you know all about that - as I imagine it is equally perhaps colder in Richmond than it is here. I feel much better sitting down by a nice fire than I would if sleeping on the cold ground with no companions except poor shivering soldiers and no covering save a thin blanket. I am writing on Sister Laura's sewing machine while she sitting near is trying shoes on Johnny who keeps a full flow of words in his peculiar language. By the way I never saw in my whole life a quieter or better child than he is. and a very fine looking fellow he is too. She lays him down anywhere and he is.

as well satisfied as if in her arms.

We have finally left the arsenal and are living much nearer the centre of the town - where there is some life & somebodys to see. Up at the arsenal we had only one or 2 calls in a month - while down here we have had 6 or 8 in 2 or 3 days. The house has 4 rooms down stairs - one of which is a kitchen and two up stairs of very convenient size, and good in other respects except that the stairway comes down in her room and the absence of a store room. The landlord is going to build another room for servants, and for all that charges 250¢ per year - which out here is a small rent to pay for a house. I suppose in Hampton this house would have rented for about 100 or 120¢. It is about on a par with the house which stood opposite the house in which Mr. Darden last lived in Hampton.

I have already spent one very agreeable day here with Miss P. D. (Julia) Rector and if I don't leave very soon for the war expect to have many more nice times.

At present I am Surgeon pro. tem. to the troops at the Arsenal - a portion of a regiment wh. is now raising to be mustered into the Confederate service for a year. The Surgeon has been appointed by the Colonel and during an absence of some weeks requests me to act for him. Today was my

first day on duty and I prescribed for one soldier. When the regiment is raised I expect to be appointed Assistant Surgeon - that officer having to be appointed by the Military Board - of wh. Governor Rector is a member and the President.

I am not very anxious to enter the service now and am very well satisfied to remain here and become a candidate for practice. I shall however try to get the situation and go if I get it. My field of operations will be in Missouri under General Benj McCulloch. I shall there have to content myself I suppose with about one letter every six months from home - and consider myself fortunate if I receive as many as that.

Very fortunately for Doctors - but not so for the people - I find Little Rock to be one of the most unhealthy places for the Confederacy. Every family with which I have become acquainted here has had from 4 to 6 sick members since I have been here. Mr. Rapley's house has been a perfect hospital and Mrs. Rapley - a most excellent lady - has had her hands full of nursing.

She seems to be a very pious lady and full of good will towards every body, and withal a very good house-keeper. but in her youth - from what I hear she was much more like Sister Lanna than now.

I wish you would get Pa to send me about 25 or 30 off
in specie - and if necessary I'll give Confederate notes
for it - The reason why I want that is, that if I go in
the army, it will be where notes will be of no service
whatever to me - I could not get anything with it.
I propose if you send it to put it in a little box in
some cotton to keep from making a noise -

Give my best love to everybody - my kindest regards to
Mr Quaker's family - Tell Pa not to forget we owe him
something for board - Write soon to

Your affectionate Bro.
W. S. West

Sunday Sept 29. I wrote this some days ago & forgot to mail it. I received your
letter of 19th to day, including a very mysterious note - the writer of which I can
not possibly divine. She asks for her pictures and I have no young ladies' likenesses
except Lizzie Gaubols, and there is no need of her writing in that way or talking about
hearts never changing - causing me pain &c. - or even with placing her signature.
I wish the writer knew I had received it as she seems to manifest some
anxiety about the reception of it.

I am very sorry you did not send me Mrs Anna's letter - I should wonder
have paid the extra postage - and I would have thought her kind friend-
ship for me would have made her so popular in Ma's eyes that she would
certainly have sent it. I like for people to love me. I would not spurn the
affection of a dog - and certainly would not reject the good will of the best of
human being - Mrs Anna loves me very much and I value her friend-
ship more than I do many other things - I hope if you have the letter you will
send it - Please to make no remarks or disclosures about the mysterious letter
as it would cause the writer of it pain if she found it out. As to Sister Laura's
wanting me to stay here, I can't answer Ma's question very positively - I suppose
she does - I will in all probability - leave soon for the army with a regiment
which is forming here.

Mrs & Mrs Kapley dined with us today - they have a sick child - Sela - who has been
having third day ague & fever for a month & a half & is very puny - more sallow
than any child ever was - I am not the physician - they have already had
3 different doctors - not me for one - Answer this inmediately or I maybe some where
your letter comes - Love to all - W. S. West

(William Hope Peek)

2

4 pg ink

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(William Hope Peek)

2 pg 2

Very fortunately for Doctors - but not so for the people I find Little Rock to be one of the most unhealthy places for the Confederacy. Every family with which I have become acquainted has had from 2 to 6 sick members since I have been here - Mr. Rapleys house has been a perfect hospital and Mrs. Rapley - a most excellent lady - had had her hands full of nursing. She seems to be a very pious lady and full of good will towards everybody and without a very good housekeeper - but in her youth - from what I hear she was much like Sister Laura than now.

I wish you would get Pa to send me about 25 or 30\$ in spieces and if necessary I'll give Confederate notes for it. The reason why I want that is, that if I go in the army it will be where notes will be of no service whatever to me - I couldn't get anything with it. I profer it you send it to put it in a little box in some cotton to keep from making a noise.

Give my best love to everybody - my kindest regards to Mr. Quarles' family. Tell Pa not to forget we owe him something for board. Write soon to

Your affectionate Bro.
W. H. Peek

Sunday Sepr 29. I wrote this some days ago & forgot to mail it. I received your letter of 19th to day, including a very mysterious note - the writer of which I can not possibly divine. She asks for her picture and I have no young ladys pictures except Lizzie Gambols and there is no need of her writing in that way or talking about hearts never changing - causing me pain ec. - or even withholding her signature. I wish the writer knew I received it as she seems to manifest some anxiety about the reception of it.

I am very sorry you did not send me Miss Anna's letter - 5 cents would have paid the extra postage - and I would have thought her kind friendship for me would have made her so popular in Ma's eyes that she would certanly have sent it. I like for people to love me. I would not spurn their affection of a day - and certinally would not reject the good will of the humblest human being - now Miss Anna loves me very much and I value her friendship more than I do many other things. I hope if you have the letter you will send it. Please to make no remarks or disclosures about the mysterious letter as it would cause the writer of it pain if she found it out. As to Sister Laura's wanting me to stay here. I can't answer Ma's question very postively - I suppose she does - I will in all probability - leave soon for the army with a regiment which is forming here.

Mr. & Mrs. Rapley dined with us today - They have a sick child - Lela - who has been having third day agne & fever for a month & a half & is very puny - more rotten than any child ever was. I am not the physician. They have already had three different Doctors - not me for one. Answer this immediatly or I may be gone when your letter comes -
Love to all - W.H.P.

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

first. Now up here in the Indian Na-
tion hides can be had for a mere
long - $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a pound would be a
very good price - and when they are
selling for 25 or 30 in Richmond
it seems to me all one would have
to do would be to buy them and
carry them on and if he did much
much of that kind of business his
coffers would soon be full. But at
this time there is one thing operating
against trade with this state and that
is that specie is the only circulating
medium. If you buy anything here
you are expected to pay the gold for it.

Memphis was a very quiet looking
place on Sunday. but a very busy town
in the week. My California friend told
me it was the only town he had seen where
the people seemed to be living - that every
other place looked as if they were half
dead. The roads thro' Tennessee passed
along a delightful country - especially
East Tennessee with which I also
fell in love - but not as in Arkansas

became land there is from 20 to 50¢ per acre while here they are from 1 to 5¢. If Bro. Johnson insisted to be farmer or merchant this is the country. I talk as if I had been here for years - while I am only 24 hrs or less, as the foreigner says, in this country.

This morning I called on the Governor with Bro Tho. and found him a very pleasant and plain man - talked sometime about matters of things so. There is no chance for me in the army until those 3 new regiments are made up when I will be recommended to the President by the Governor & military board of Arkansas. I don't care much if I don't get it then. for soon was Brother Tho. advise me to become a candidate for practice at once in Little Rock. I don't know so well about that however, but cer.

tain I don't feel much like coming back to Virginia now. I hope you all will feel well satisfied now in regard to me and that I am getting along very well indeed. Bro Tho. will have to leave the annual. It is a very nice place - but best for him to leave it. for here he gets a big salary and nothing at all to do which would completely ruin any man in the world. His friends have subscribed several thousand dollars to start a bank for him & he will soon go at that business again. Besides he has the office of Superintendent of Penitentiary paying five hundred dollars a year which will help along an idea. Sister Lucia is not well, just recovering from a spell of sickness and they say the baby has the Whooping Cough. It is a very fine & hearty looking boy - has blue eyes and is Peck all over. Mrs Rapply was here this morning - she is exactly like Lucia.

Little Rock is a very pretty place
and the Drs say rather too healthy.
I was introduced to one of them
this morning - quite an ordinary
looking man - but gets a fine
practice.

As yet I have seen very little and
can say very little of the place.
When I next write it will be a
much longer and I hope a more
interesting letter. My best love
to you all -

Affly yours
W. L. Allen

Eca Sent 186 □

(William Hope Peek)
A

1/2 pg ink

(part of letter, date unknown)
Little Rock, Ark.

fict. Now up here in the Indian Nation hides can be had for a mere song - 1/2 cent a pound would be a very good price - and when they are selling for 25 or 30 in Richmond it seems to me all one would have to do would be to buy them and carry them on and if he did much of that kind of business his coffers would soon be full. Best at this time there is one thing operating against trade with this state and that is that spieces is the only circulating medium - If you buy anything here you are expected to pay the gold for it.

Memphis was a very quiet looking place on Sunday but a very busy town in the week - My California friend told me it was the only town he had seen where the people seemed to be living - that every other place looked as if they were half dead. The roads thro' Tennessee pased along a delightful country - especially east Tennessee with which I also fell in love - but not as in Arkansas because land there is from 20 to 50\$ per acre while here they are from 1 to 5\$. If Bro. Johnny intends to be farmer or merchant this is the country. I talk as if I had been here for years - while I am only 24 hrs or less, as the foringer says, in this country.

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Little Rock is a very pretty place and the Drs. say rather too healthy. I was introduced to one of them this morning - quite an ordinary looking man - but gets a fine practice.

As yet I have seen very little and can say very little of the place. When I next write it will be a much longer and I hope a more interesting letter. My best love to you all -

Affecy
Willie

Little Rock, Saturday Morning
My Dear Sis.

You begin to think
your turn has come to get a letter -
and as there are a few moments
left in which to mail one - I will
write a few lines.

Since I have been here I have scarcely
done more than vegetate - remaining
at the arsenal for several days together
without going away anywhere -
eating drinking, sleeping & reading
have consumed my time. I don't
know whether to fix up and
become at once a candidate for
practice - or wait in this way doing
nothing - and like Niccolini only
waiting for something to turn up.
I can see no prospect for entering
the army for some time to come
perhaps several weeks. We don't
feel the effects of the war excitement
out here like you do in Virginia -
we read of the movements of armies
in Virginia like we did of the

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

Little Rock, Saturday Morning
My Dear Sis.

You begin to think
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Since I have been here I have scarcely
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waiting for something to turn up.
I can see no prospect for entering
the army for some time to come
perhaps several weeks. We don't
feel the effects of the war excitement
out here like you do in Virginia.
We read of the monuments of armies
in Virginia like we did of the

Army in Mexico. Every thing here done so and more will do so. I certainly is so quiet and seemingly undisturb'd am glad & hope every man Arkansas has by the war. In Missouri where nearly perished will leave & some home - and all the Arkansas troops are the same I hope difficulties will not cease to crowd of the Confederates suffers very much thick and heavy around Mr. Secy. Walker owing to dissatisfaction among the troops. I hope him to retire from the Cabinet. The administration is nothing there is no sort of concert of action among like so popular here as in Virginia the different generals in Missouri - one they have removed good generals ap - is going off in one direction one in another pointed by Arkansas - and put in each pursuing his own inclination while their places men of well known in energy & activity characterize the other faculty - in one instance a man of New England birth - a strong union man victories for us in Missouri for a long before the state seceded.

Governor Reaton is very much dis- Master John L. Peck is now teaching and pleased with the manner in which that causes an otherwise very quiet child the Confederate government is conducting to be rather fretful. but even as it is his matters out here - and that government is very easy to manage. Sister Laura has has complained to him of the conduct been rather unwell for some time but of the Arkansas troops. When the troops is now getting much better - in fact were turned over to the Confederate States - the men were allowed the option of remaining in the service - or if they objected to being transferred they could go home - and a great many have 3 young ladies in town. Miss

4
Rector (the Govi's daughter) is quite a well
independent, outshone young lady &
rather good looking than otherwise -
I think she is rather coy & staid.

Miss Tucker's daughter of a merchant
here - reminded me very much of Miss
Emma Deys - but nothing at all like her.

She seems to be rather more of a domestic
young lady than Miss R. and according
to my notions would make a much better
wife. Miss Blanche Scott - of whom
George can give you all the necessary
information is the third whose acquaint-
ance I have made. She is Sister E's
particular friend and confidante -
but of a very different disposition I
imagine.

For some days Bro. Thos. has been looking
around for a home as he expects to leave the
Arsenal very soon - when I tell you ~~he~~ he
can't get such an one as would suit him for
less than \$300 you will see rents are as high
here as in Richmond. - You must
excuse this short letter - I'll try to write
more next time - Yours affectionately
W. H. F.

ca Sept 18617

(William Hope Peek)

Little Rock Saturday Morning

4 *4 pg ink*

My Dear Sis,

You begin to think your turn has come to get a letter - and so there are a few moments left in which to mail one - I will write a few lines.

Since I have been here I have scarcely done more than vegetate - remaining at the arsenal together with out going away any where - eating drinking, sleeping & reading have consumed my time. I don't know whether to fix up and become at once a candidate for practice - or wait in this way doing nothing - and like Niecawber only waiting for something to turn up. I can see no prospect for entering the army for sometime to come perhaps several weeks. We dont feel the effects of the war excitement out here like you do in Virginia. We read of the movements of the army in Virginia like we did of the army of Mexico - Everything here is so quiet seemingly undisturbed ? by the war. In Missouri where nearly all the Arkansas troops are. The cause of the Confederate suffer very much owing to dissatisfaction among the troops. The adminstration is nothing like so popular here as in Virginia. They have uncovered generals appointed by Arkansas - and put in their places men of well known incapacity - in one instance a man of New England at birth - a strong union man before the state seceded.

Governor Rector is very much displeased with the manner in which the Confederate government is conducting matters out here - and that government has complained to him of the conduct of the Arkansas troops. When the troops were turned over to the Confederate States - they never were allowed the option of remaining in the service - or if they objected to being transferred they could go home - and a great many have done so and sure will do so. I certainly am glad & hope every man Arkansas has furnished will leave & come home - and I hope difficulties will not cease to crowd thick and heavy around Mr. Secy Walker & force him to retire from the Cabinet.

There is no sort of concert of action among the different generals in Missouri - one is going off in one direction one in another each pursuing his own inclination - while energy & activity characterize the other side. You need not expect any more victories for us in Missouri for a long time to come. --

Master John L. Peek is now teething and that causes an otherwise very quiet child to be rather fritful, but even as it is he is very easy to manage. Sister Laura has been rather unwell for some time but is now getting much better - in fact is well. Tho' she manages to persuade herself she can't bear the fatigue of getting up to breakfast every morning. I have as yet been introduced to but 3 young ladies in town. Miss Rector (the Govr. daughter) is quite a willful independent outspoken young lady & rather good looking than otherwise - I think she is rather coquittish.

Miss Tucker a daughter of a merchant here - reminded me very much of Miss Emma Diggs - but nothing at all like her. She seems to be rather more of a domestic young lady than Miss R. and according to my notions would make a much better wife. Miss Blanche Scott - of whom Georgie can give you all the necessary information is the third other acquaintance I have made. She is Sister L's particular friend and confidante - but of a very different disposition I imagine.

(William Hope Peek)

4 pg 2

For some days Bro Thos. has been looking around for a house as he expects to leave the arsenal very soon - when I tell you he can't get such an one a would suit him for less than \$300 you will see rents are as high here as in Richmond.- You must excuse this short letter - I'll try to write more next time -
Yours affectionately

W. H. P.

Little Rock, Saturday Oct. 17 1864

My Dear Sis,

Your letter of the 5th together with one from
Ma reached me this morning after a considerable delay on the
route. I cannot see why it is that a newspaper can come thro'
so quickly, while a letter requires twice the time. The date of my
last Examiner is 14th and my last letter 5th quite a difference.
I have not as you see yet started from Little Rock for the
camp nor it can I possibly say when I will leave or that I
will ever go at all. There are many regiments to be raised in
Arkansas for the army under General McCulloch and if I
fell disposed I suppose I should be no difficulty in
getting a position in the army that is a prospect
as I must confess I do not see much prospect of
do here in Little Rock. I have been owing to the state
of affairs and probably because I have been looking to the
army for employment - yet it is nevertheless true that I have
been now a candidate for practice one month without a single
patient - at a time too when scarcely a family in the
whole town could boast entire freedom from sickness. I
think it that I could have gotten more patients in Hampton
had there been no war - than I can get here. I shall not despond
however and I am determined to make a living if I have
to work as a common laborer. If I can't do any thing in
my own profession I shall soon look about for some other business
and now at this time it is very easy to find employment for
General McCulloch sadly needs able bodied men. You all must not

however think I am low spirited or anything of the kind - on the contrary I am in excellent spirits and have no forebodings all for the future. I shall be a rich man one of these days you may be sure. The young ladies of Little Rock you know are sadly at a loss for beaux and are likely to make the most of those who are here and consequently I occasionally pass a very pleasant time with them. I wrote to Georgie about our concert and Tableau which ~~was~~ ^{were} so successful - and since then we have had a repetition with some slight changes in the programme - the same ladies and gentlemen taking parts.

I understand there is a great deal of dissatisfaction on the part of certain mothers because Mrs Wright did not invite their daughter to take part in the affair. This is the greatest place for cliques and backbiting and I expect nothing else than that our own will be all amount of bad feeling between the parties. They seem of concert so will be gotten up by another party who have already been called the "opposition party" - and that will give the start to all sorts of unfriendly remarks between the two sets. It seems to be Mrs Judge English versus Mrs Wright. Miss Sallie English not having been invited to take part in the programme of Mrs W. The latter lady is a very amiable one indeed - and one of the very few in L.R. whom I have not heard backbiting her neighbors. The ladies of Mrs Wright's set are congratulating themselves that the other party will find it difficult to procure young gentlemen - the entire stock on hand having been monopolized by Mrs Wright. If they invite me however I shall certainly join them because I see no necessity ^{for} about such a senseless spirit of opposition in a matter of such importance - viz providing for

the wants of our soldiers. You think perhaps I write too much about the girls - but I really can't find anything else to write about. I believe I told you Bro Th. had left the arsenal - lives down town - and is now Commissary for the troops here, for which of course he gets paid. His paper will be started in 2 or 3 weeks when he will be more actively employed than at present. Little Johnny was baptized last Sunday in the Episcopal Church, and still continues to be the very best baby I ever saw. You scarcely ever hear him cry - and he is as well satisfied on the floor as in his mother's arms - provided of course he is not hungry. He has 2 teeth.

Sister Laura I think shows evidence of improvement in house-keeping - and I have no doubt if she is not spoiled now in the beginning she will eventually make a right good one. I wish she had some very good servants - Ma and Pigeon would do. Her mother's ~~is~~ ^{is} but ~~is~~ ^{is} that her advice shall be ~~is~~ ^{is} if she would ~~is~~ ^{is} Laura would do so. it would ~~is~~ ^{is} much better. How ~~is~~ ^{is} in ~~is~~ ^{is} tentions are good - and there is room for ample excuse for her. There are a great many things which can be urged in her favor which should be taken into consideration - She is thoughtless - and if Bro Thos or some one else - as each case arose would point out to her the great waste or want of economy of any act she would willingly desist. Now she spoke of a plastered room with a fire place or the expense of buying a stove for old Aunt Kilty, (the cook) merely to sleep in - saying there was nothing she liked so much as hanging over a fire at night. Bro Thos. demurred - said the wood would cost so much and that as the room adjoined the kitchen there was no need for a fire & she acquiesced - I only mention that as one instance. The education the fetching up of the people down South is utterly wrong - Economy is

is almost entirely ignorant - They want some of the Yankee element
infused in them - I scruple not to say I would in many respects
far prefer a Northern woman for a wife to one from the South -
I mean the extreme South & South West. I have seen no ladies
that I like as much as I do our Virginian girls - They are far
ahead of all. I don't think you all need fear any hasty marriage on
my part. The brutes I should avoid are not hidden or mastered
they roll boldly before my eyes and I would be a senseless fool
to rush on them. There is a Miss Lecker here who is above all the
other young ladies seems to have been taught something practical
by her mother (according to Sister L's account). She is a very nice
girl indeed, just left school and her father is the head man of
the law in the county. Her house here is worth certainly not under
\$100.000. Her mother does a great deal of her father's business and at that
rate she is a very busy body. Her mother is a French lady
but her father is a Sirrow man.
The young ladies however whose personal qualities & manners attract
me most is Miss Annie Rayburn. I don't know much of her how-
ever yet - except that she is an orphan and worth some property.
Her manners are very winning and her disposition seems to be of
the very best. She is one of these sweet somebodies with hazel eyes
and brown chestnut hair - soft skin - fair complexion &c. She is
the one I call my sweetheart. Sister Laura has spoken of many
other ladies in different parts of the state - whom she recommends
to me - but I suppose like all others I shall be compelled to wait
till the war is over. I like your studies except the dictionary which is
a mere farce - however so small a matter as to be beneath the trouble
of a change. You'll soon get used to Mr. Lefebvre's language & pronun-
ciation & I warrant you have plenty of acquaintances now.
Tell Pa all right about the money and tell her that she must not despair
that every thing will certainly go on well with me - affectionately W.H.P.

(William Hope Peek)

5

4 pg ink

Little Rock Saturday Oct 19 1861

My Dear Sis,

Your letter of the 5th together with one from Ma reached me this morning after a considerable delay on the route. I cannot see why it is that a newspaper can come thro' so quickly while a letter requires twice the time. The date of my last Examiner is 14th and my last letter 5th quite a difference. I have not as you see yet started from Little Rock for the camp nor I can I possibly say when I will leave or that I will even go at all. There are many regiments to be raised in Arkansas for the army under General McClulloch and if I felt disposed I suppose it would be no difficulty to my getting a position in [] that is [] as I must confess I do [] prospect of [] to do here in Little Rock. [] be owing to the [] state of affairs and probably because I have been looking to the Army for employment yet it is nevertheless true that I have been now a candidate for practice one month without a single patient - at a time too when scarcely a family in the whole town could boast entire freedom from sickness. I think that I could have gotten more patients in Hampton had there been no war than I can get here. I shall not despond however and I am determined to make a living if I have to work as a common laborer. If I cant do anything in my own profession I shall soon look about for some other business and now at this time it is very easy to find employment for General McClulloch sadly needs all able bodied men. You all must not however think I am low spirited or anything of the kind - on the contrary I am in excellent spirits and have no foreboding at all for the future. I shall be a sick man one of these days you may be sure. The young ladies of Little Rock you know are sadly at a loss for beauty and are likely to make the most of those who are here and consequently I occasionally pass a very pleasant time with them. I wrote to Georgie about our concert and tableaux which were so successful and since then we have had a repetition with some slight changes in the programme - the same ladies and gentlemen taking parts. I understand there is a great deal of dissatisfaction on the part of certain mothers because Mrs. Wright did not invite their daughters to take part in the affair. [] the greatest place for cliques circles [] and backbiting [] expect nothing else than that [] ours [] all amount of bad feeling between the parties. The [] of concerts ec. will be gotten up by another party who have already been called the "opposition parts" and that will give the start to all sorts of unfriendly remarks between the two sets. It seems to be Mrs. Judge English versous Mrs. Wright. Miss Sallie English not having been invited to take part in the programme of Mrs W. The latter lady is a very amiable one in deeds and one of the very few in L.R. whom I have not heard backbiting her neighbors. The ladies of Mrs Wright's set are congratulating themselves that the other party will find it difficult to procure young gentlemen - the entier stock on hand having been monopolized by Mrs. Wright. If they wrote me however I shall certianly join them because I see no necessity for such a sensdise spirit of opposition in a matter of such importance vis providing for the wants of our soldiers. You think perhaps I write too much about the girls but I really can't find any thing else to write about. I believe I told you Bro Th. had left the arsenal - lives downtown and is now comissary for the troops here for which of course he gets paid. His paper will be started in 2 or 3 weeks when he will be more actively employed than at present. Little Johnny was baptized last Sunday in the Episcopal church, and still continues to be the very best baby I ever saw. You scarcely ever hear him cry and he is as well satisfied on the floor as

(William Hope Peek)

5 pg 2

in his mother's arms provided of course he is not hungry. He has 2 teeth. Sister Laura shows evidence of improvement in house keeping and I have no doubt if she isn't should now in the beginning she will eventually make a right good one [] she had some very good lessons from Ma and Pigon if she would heed them. Her mother [] but [] that her advice shall be [] but if she would [] Sister Laura would be much better. However her intentions are good - and there is room for ample excuse for her. There are a great many things which can be argued in her favor & which should be taken into consideration. She is thoughtless and if Bro Thos or someone else - as each case arose would point out to her the great waste or want of economy of any act she would willingly desist. Now she spoke of a plastered room with a fire place or the expense of buying a stove for old Aunt Kitty (the cook) merely to sleeping saying there was nothing she liked so much as hanging over a fire at night. Bro Thos demurred - said the wood would cost so much and that as the room adjoined the kitchen there was no need for a fire & she acquiesced - I only mention that as one instance. The education the fetching up of the people down South is utterly wrong - Economy is almost entirely ignored. They want some of the Yankee element infused in them. I scruple not to say I would in many respects far prefer a Northern woman for a wife to one from the South - I mean to extreme South & South West. I have seen no ladies that I like as much as I do our Virginia girls - They are far ahead of all. I dont think you all need fear any hasty marriage on my part. The breakers I should word are not hidden or masked they roll boldly before my eyes and I would be a senceless fool to rush on them. There is a Miss Tucker here who above all the young ladies seems to have been taught nothing practical by her mother (accoding to Sister L's account) She is a very nice girl indeed jus left school and her father is the head man of the largest mercantile house here worth certainly not under \$100

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The young lady however whose [] qualities & manners attract me most is Miss Annie Rayburn. I don't know much of her however yet - except that she is an orphan and worth some property. Her manners are very winning and her disposition seems to be of the very best. She is one of those sweet somebodies withe hazel eyes and brown chesnut hair - soft skin - fair complexion ec. She is the one I call my sweetheart. Sister Laura has spoken of many other ladies in different parts of the state - whom she recomments to me - but I suppose like all others I shall be compelled to wait till the war is over. I like your studies except the dictionary which is a mere farce - however so small a matter is to be beneath the trouble of a change. You'll get used to Mr Lefebure's language & pronounciation & I warrent you have plenty of acquaintances now.

Tell Pa all right about the money and Ma that she must not despond that every thing will certainly go on well wi Me -

Affectionately
W. H. P.

() denotes torn out portion of letter in shape of ackorn
reason, unknown

Office of "The Daily Journal"

Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 29 1861.

Dear Sis.

I have been waiting some time for a letter from either you or Georgie, but will now wait no longer as I suppose you all would like very much to hear from me as often as possible. You will perceive from the heading of this letter that I write in a new place - none other than Bro Thomas' office. The first number of his paper has not yet appeared, but will be out day after tomorrow and every day thereafter except Sundays - containing the latest telegraphic dispatches received up to 8 o'clock the previous evening - thus becoming quite a desirable thing here. You see we shall then have the news as regularly and as early as you get it in Richmond - and perhaps there will be published for the first time in our Journal as much stirring news as in the Richmond Dispatch. You must know that Genl Fremont is rapidly advancing toward our North West border - with Genl Price slowly retreating before him probably to effect a junction with Genl McCulloch. Perhaps before this - or even while I write the battle between them

is raging - and a very severe one it will be, for Fremont has every military advantage that art and skill can afford - the best arms - most complete equipments & abundance of them - while opposed to him will be found scarcely anything more than stout arms and brave hearts. Such a condition of affairs could not exist so near us without giving rise to some sensation story, and accordingly we had it Saturday & Sunday - "that Fremont was coming down ^{on} us with an innumerable host, about to annihilate Price & McCulloch, and that now was the time for every Arkansian to rush to the rescue of his state and repel the invader who threatened her frontiers. There was of course great stir here among the people. but the authorities paid very little regard to the reports. A company was at once enlisted for one month's service - your humble servant among the recruits armed with a Maynard rifle and mounted on a fine charger. but while the company were getting ready to start in a few days - it all blew over, and every thing settled down to its accustomed quiet. I did not put any reliance in the report at first and Gov. Rector ridiculed the whole thing refusing permission for his son to go - and saying that I ought not to go - but I knew it could do no harm and possibly some good might result. There were many amusing incidents growing out of

the affair - fathers & mothers coming in from the country with sons to send, after the whole thing had blown over. One lady began on Sunday morning & wore the cloth & made a coat for her son to wear - another sewed all Saturday night and all day Sunday. The excitement developed quite a large number of men who are still holding back - and I believe Arkansas could furnish with all ease at least 15000 more men now.

The Legislature of the State meets here next week and there for a month or so we shall have quite a lively time in town. We are preparing for more concerts and tableaux and expect to do a great deal in the way of providing for the necessities of the soldiers. Brother Thos expects to get along very well with his paper and has already flattering prospects ahead. However if he fails he will love nothing himself - as it is sustained almost entirely by his political friends. They are determined to war against the Johnsons and hope to beat their influence in the state by some means.

All the young ladies are charming and I manage to have a very nice time with them as there are but very few young men left in town - of those who visit in the best circles!!!! You know it won't do for every body to associate with daughters of Governors Senators

Judges & those in whose veins the royal blood of Scotland flows - as is the case with one young lady in town. There is one thing certain and that is I must have a wife but not every lady will do - I want one you know with some few thousands to help a fellow along - and extensive circle of family connections & friends to increase one's practice - not to say anything of all the good qualities of head and heart that make ladies so attractive to the sterner sex. Such an one I fear will be very hard to find in Little Rock, but I hope there may be some one in the State and that I may soon meet with her. Now if I leave for the camp very soon and get service for 12 months - I'll not care so much for marrying - for then I would return with about 1000 \$ in cash in my pocket which would keep me up for a year or two. I am not wholly mercenary in my desire to get married however - nor can money alone attract me to any young lady. —

I hope you begin to like Mr. Lefebvre very well by this time. Little Rock presents a splendid opening for a good female teacher. Such for example as Miss Cleveland. She could get from 800 to 1000 \$ and her board well all care. I hope to get frequent letters hereafter —

My love to all —

affectionately

Wm. H. Beck —

(William Hope Peek)

6 4 pg ink

Office of "The Daily Journal"
Little Rock, Ark. Oct. 29 1861

Dear Sis,

I have been waiting some time for a letter from either you or Georgie, but will now wait no longer as I suppose you all would like very much to hear from me as often as possible. You will perceive from the heading of this letter that I write in a new place - none other than Bro Thomas' office. The first number of his paper has not yet appeared, but will be out day after tomorrow and every day there after except Sundays - containing the latest telegraphic dispatches received up to 8 o'clock the previous evening - thus becoming quite a desirable thing here. You see we shall then have the news as regularly and as early as you get it in Richmond - and perhaps there will be published for the first time in our Journal as much stirring news as in the Richmond Dispatch. You must know that Genl. Fremont is rapidly advancing toward our North West border with Genl. Price slowly retreating before him probably to effect a junction with Genl. McCulloch. Perhaps before this - or even while I write the battle between them is raging and a very severe one it will be, for Fremont has every military advantage that Ark and skill can afford - the best arms - most complete equipment & abundance of them - while opposed to him will be found scarcely anything more than stint arms and brave hearts. Such a condition of affairs could not exist so near to us without giving rise to some sensation story, and accordingly we had it Saturday & Sunday - "that Fremont was coming down on us with an innumerable host annihilate - Price & McCulloch and that now was the time for every Arkansian to rush to the rescue of his state and repel the invader who threatened his frontiers". There was of course great stir here among the people - but the authorities paid very little regard to the reports. A company was at once enlisted for one months service - your humble servant among the recruits armed with a Maynard rifle and mounted on a fine charger but while the company were getting ready to start in a few days - it all blew over, and every thing settled down to its accustomed quiet. I did not put any reliance in the report at first and Gov. Rector ridiculed the whole thing refusing permission for his son to go - and saying that I ought not to go - but I knew it could do no harm and possibly some good might result. There were many amusing incidents growing out of the affair - fathers & mothers coming in from the country with sons to send, after the whole thing had blown over. One lady began on Sunday morning & wove the cloth & made a coat for her son to wear - another sewed all Saturday night and all day Sunday. The excitement developed quite a large number of men who are still holding back - and I believe Arkansas could furnish with all ease at least 15000 more men now.

The Legislature of the State meets here next week and then for a month or so we shall have quite a lively time in town. We are preparing for more concerts and tableaux and expect to do a great deal in the way of providing for the necessities of the soldiers. Brother Thos expects to get along very well with his paper and has already flattering prospects ahead. However if he fails he will lose nothing himself as it is sustained almost entirely by his political friends. They are determined to war against the Johnsons and hope to head their influence in the state by some means.

All the young ladies are charming and I manage to have a very nice time with them as there are but very few young men left in town - of those who visit in the best

(William Hope Peek)

6 pg 2

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I hope you begin to like Mr. Lefebure very well by this time. Little Rock presents a splendid opening for a good female teacher - and for example Miss Cleveland. She could get from 800 to 1000\$ and her board with all ease. I hope to get frequent letters here after.

My love to all -

Affecty.
Wm. H Peek

Shipton, November 2nd 1861

My dear Molly:

I received your letter from
Foylesville was exceedingly happy to hear from
you and learn that yourself and our dealings
were well, & hope you may continue to enjoy
yourself. You are now in Richmond if nothing
has happened to prevent. I expect to see you
very much well. I have received an invita-
tion to stand an examination before the
board of the Confederate States & as soon as I
can, will be in R. You will, therefore, not come
down, unless you see or hear from me. If
all is right, I can come down with
you. We are all well. Commenced on Monday
to build our winter quarters of pine logs. Will
be, I think quite comfortable; but need to have
more. Hope to see you soon.

Yours affectionately
Hope

1 pg ink

Ship Point November 2nd 1861

My Dear Molly :

I received yours if - from Toylnsville was exceeding happy to hear from you and learn that yourself and our darlings were well, & hope you may continue to enjoy yourself. You are now in Richmond if nothing has happened to prevent. I expect to see you early next week. I have received an invitation to stand an examination before the army board of the Confederate States & as soon as I can will be in R. You write therefore, not come down until you see or hear from me - If I go up & all is right, I can come home with you - We are all well - Commenced on Monday to build our winter quarters of pine logs. Will be, I think quite comfortable, not time to write more. Hope to see you soon.

Your affect,
Hope

Wise Hill Nov 9th 1861

My dear child

I was Glad to receive your
dear kind letters, O how sad I feel at
parting with my dear boy, I wright now
to ask you to see that he is made com-
forable in the army he left here with
out any thing I had nothing to give him
and no money I left three quarters in hamper
if they were sold I want them sold for
forty and get him blankets with the
money you have a kind father in law
woud to attend to your sister my poor
boy has no one, you say my children
that never want, God bless you for that
my dear child, please see that he has some
thick shirts and pants please do all you
can for my dear boy, I wish you were
here with me, I hope you will get a letter from me
I hope I will get a letter from you
I hope you will get a letter from me
I hope you will get a letter from me
I hope you will get a letter from me

would in your
me soon will be
can you to do

goodby
your mother and
friend

I could get away now, well if that
article was settled or could be done
keep all

1/2 pg pencil

Spring Hill Nov 9th 1861

My Dear Child

I was glad to receive your dear kind letter, O how sad I feel at parting with my dear boy, I write now to ask you to see that he is made comfortable in the army. he left here without anything, I had nothing to give him and no money. I left three quilts in Hampton if they were saved I want them sold for forty and get him blankets with the money. you have a kind father in Richmond to attend to your wants my poor boy, has no one, you say my children shal never want, god bless you for that. My dear child please see that he has some thick shirts and pants please do all you can for my dear boy. I wish you . . . his quarters & tents if not a fortunate with Mr C was glad when he left he says, P has no more manners than a hogs mind what you write do not mention one word if you (? ?) me soon and let (? ? ?) ere going to do.

goodby

your mother and
friend

Sally

I could get along very well if that estate was seteld or could be done

kiss all

(? ?) denotes torn letter , words missing

Albany, N. Y.
Nov. 11th 1861

Mr. Geo. M. Pick

Richmond, Va. Dear Sir

I have received your two letters. The gentleman to whom the position, about which we have corresponded - was offering, wrote to me ten days since, that he would accept, and make his arrangements to enter upon the discharge of its duties soon - I have not seen or heard from him since, and I am instructed to wait on your next in Richmond.

I will, in the mean time hear from him. I am instructed to offer the same to you - With this I send your cousin's letter - I may probably telegraph or write to you, in about a week; if so, come immediately, as we have

been reading your papers
for some time -

Very respectfully yours
J. P. Rice

Nov. 12

Since writing the above I re-
ceived a letter from the above
mentioned gentleman, saying
that he could not yet get his
consent to leave the army
and regretting that he
had disappointed me
in the place to

you and wife. You
to come to me immediately
I shall telegraph you
to-day.

Respectfully

J. P. Rice

(letter to George Peek
from L. P. Rice)

L.P. Rice

Florence Ala.
Nov. 11th 1861

Mr. Geo. M. Peek
Richmond, Va,

Dear Sir :

I have received your two letters. The gentleman to whom the position, about which we corresponded was offered, wrote to me ten days since, that he would accept and made his arrangements to when upon the discharge of its duties soon - I have not seen or heard from him since and I am instructed to wait (?) men (? ?) on him (?) I not, in the mean time hear from him. I am instructing to offer the same to you - With this I send your cousins, letter - I may probably telegraph or write to you in about a week ; if so, come immediately , as we have been needing your services for sometime -

Very respectfully yours
L.P. Rice

Nov 12

Since writing the above I received a letter from the above mentioned gentleman, saying that he could not get his consent to leave the Army and regretting that he had disappointed me - (?) the place to (?) and ask you to come immediately - I shall telegraph you to-day -

Respectfully

L.P. Rice

(?) denotes hole torn in paper

Little Rock Nov 11 1861.

Dear Georgie,

I received a letter from you a few days ago - but as I had just written to Sis - I have delayed, perhaps too long the reply. There is so little here to write about, other than what you see in the newspapers that I find it quite a task to fill up a letter to respectable size. You all can always take it for granted when I don't write for any length of time that everything is all well - and nothing is occurring worth writing about.

We have any quantity of rumors about Price Fremont, McClellan - and of various on our North Eastern border - the scene of Jeff Thompson's operations - and some of them even find their way into the news papers. But they are generally untrue - Sometimes they used to get up a respectable excitement

but the people have been fooled so often that they have begun to disbelieve all reports.

Something of the kind is necessary to stimulate these people of Arkansas - for notwithstanding all their boasting - I believe her men are more backward in civilization than any other people. They seem to think that a married man by virtue of his marriage is excused and some are expected to go to the wars except single men - and of them alone several regiments could be recruited from Arkansas.

The legislature have been in session for a week or so - and elected two C.S. Senators - both Arkansas men - viz. Rob. Johnson & W. Mitchell - a disgrace to the state and men of expected talent - for they can't speak the English language - there was no well organized opposition - and every body knew they would certainly be elected.

The State Journal - Mrs Thomas' paper is growing in favor every day - It is a

daily you know. and much sought after every morning. He was afraid the Free Press

would try to break it down by also publishing all probably - will not do so. You get it regularly I suppose and can judge of its merits for yourself

All the ladies are charming and I have a nice time. Yesterday morning I went to church with Miss Blanche - afternoon with Miss Laura Crease and at night visited your beauty Miss Murdock - pretty good for one day - walking several squares in the excitement with Miss Emma Tucker. My sweetheart Miss Annie Reyburn however beats all of them. She was at Col Faulkner's when you called there in company with Willie Hapley & Ben Field - Don't you recollect her? Peedee Rector never goes to church and besides that is engaged so I don't do much exciting there. I have not yet however met the ladies whom

I hope to make Mrs. C. C. C. C. - There are
several ladies here whom I like for
various qualities - but have not yet found
one to whom some serious objection does
not exist in my mind.

P.S. My love to all -
I shall write to Ma aft. will -
soon

(William Hope Peek)

7
3 1/2 pg emb

Little Rock Novr 11 1861

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Something of the kind is necessary to stimulate these people of Arkansas - for notwithstanding all their boasting - I believe her men are more backward in enlisting than any other people. They seem to think that a married man by virtue of his marriage is excused and none are excepted to go to the war except single men - and of them alone several regiments could be recruited from Arkansas.

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The State Journal - Bro Thomas' paper is growing in favor everyday - It is a daily you know - and much sought after every morning. He was afraid the True Dem. would try to break it down by also publishing a daily - but they have not done so yet & in all probability will not do so. You get it regulary I suppose and can judge of its merits for yourself.

All the ladies are charming and I have a nice time - Yesterday morning I went to church with Miss Blanche - afternoon with Miss Laura Crease and at night I visited your beauty Miss Merrick - pretty good for one day - walking several squares in the meantime with Miss Emma Tucker. My sweetheart Miss Annie Reyburn however beats all of them. She was at Col. Faulkner's when you called there in company with Willie Rafley & Bea Feild - dont you recollect her? Peedee Rector never goes to church and besides that is engaged so I dont do much escorting there.

I havn't yet however met the lady whom I have to make Mrs. W H Peek. There are several ladies whom I like for various qualities - but have not yet one to to whom some serious abjection did not exist in my mind.

My love To all -
affy Willie

P. S. I shall write Ma soon

- Thursday night, [before 23 Nov. 1861]

Florence W. University,
Florence Ala.

My dear Ma,

I arrived at this place at 5 o'clock this morning, and would have written you before, but the mail does not start til twelve to-morrow - and well it is; for I should not have been able to tell you so much of the place the people &c - The institution was formerly a flourishing college; but, now, on account of the war, the collegiate department is almost entirely destroyed, as but two or three boys are here advanced enough to enter upon the collegiate course. Hence the school has been opened for smaller boys; and the duties devolving upon me will not be of that high collegiate character that we had anticipated. In fact it is now a mere school.

The military department is of course to be added. This is to be organized solely by myself and carried on without conflicting with any of the rules or recitations of the school-room. I am to do this without guns or uniform at present.

The state cannot furnish us with guns at this time to be used in this way.

as her armory is well nigh emptied.

He will therefore, says the President Mr Rice, have to do with private arms. Now the inconveniences of this kind of military organization will be seen at first glance. They will make no show what ever and that in a military view knocks the thing down to a mere nothing. Nevertheless I do not despair. I hope after some trouble and surgery to get them armed and uniformed and have a regular military school of it after all. For that will be the only respite I shall have - the plan of instruction being a morning and afternoon session.

Mr. Rice has furnished me with a room in the College - which was occupied by a former teacher here, who was killed at the battle of Manassas. In the present I board with him - that is - I sleep in the College and eat at his house on the opposite side of the street, some two hundred yards up towards the town - the college being built just on the edge of the town. I shall have to furnish my room with some necessaries. The North C. note & the two Virginia note enclosed I can do nothing with. The N. C. note is a ten dollar note and I will try and pass it before

sending it to you. But please forward in exchange for the notes sent some southern money - as I will certainly need it - My passage here cost me \$43.50 exactly - I brought from home 80 \$ all told, which leaves me a balance sufficient, perhaps, to my present necessities - My journey was exceedingly long and tedious, as you will see by tracing on the map that long line of railroad reaching from Richmond through North Carolina to Wilmington, thence through South C. to Augusta - then up the long state road through Georgia diagonally to Atlanta, thence to Chattanooga Tennessee, and thence to Florence, S. C.

A long route, which occupied the space of three days and three nights. The cities of Augusta and Atlanta, in. are beautifully laid off in wide broad airy streets. On the whole they are the prettiest cities I ever saw. Augusta has about 8000 inhabitants & Atlanta 5000 - Nothing of interest transpired during my trip - I was alone all the time made no acquaintances and said little or nothing to say to any one. But now I am in Florence very well, having stood my trip remarkably -

I find Mr. Rice to be a very nice man, a strict member of the Methodist Church

but a real pedagogue - school teacher -
He is a very early riser, and I believe
works all day. He has been very much
in want of assistance and was very glad
to see me. He has intrusted me to many
of the duties of Florence already -
I have seen very little of his wife, but
I think she is a very nice lady - not very
tasty, in manner, in her dress - some what
staid and I think not a spoiled child
or a pet - They live in rather a common style,
and here for the first time in my life
I have tasted parched corn coffee. I will be
pretty well situated now in a very short time
and I believe my session will pass away as
pleasantly as anticipated. The village of Florence
contains about 1500 inhabitants - not so populous
as Hamilton, but covering a very large extent
of ground - There is besides this a college for
young ladies conducted by the Presbyterians.
The business is entirely suspended since the
blockade of the Ohio river, as there by the Tennessee
also blockaded. I have been introduced
to Prof. Suskouski, Prof. of Modern Languages
and the only colleague of Prof. Rice, as every
body in the town calls him - We three are to
conduct the school - My department - the military
is excluded. Suskouski is a hermit -
lives in his room altogether. Finds his own
eating - cooks it on the stove in his own room
and is the strangest looking man I

over sea - I don't think I will
find in time, at least, a very
convenient time for me -

Give my love to all - Sir &
Fannie especially - Tell all
I didn't bid them "goodbye"
because I would have preferred
me doing unpleasant tasks
to perform - I shall be much
pleased to give them the
wedding salutation when
I return -

By the next mail I will
write Sir & Fannie. I will
also write to Willie today
informing him of my
situation &c -

I hope to get frequent letters
from you all, which alone can
make my stay here any way
pleasant during the vexatious
state of trouble & excitement
that is abroad in the land

I have noticed many
villages on the route here - &
the best ones were in Georgia
the villages of North & South C.
are kept up by - even
the town of Goldsboro is but
another Williamsburg -

None of them seem to be
so large a Steam town -

In Georgia I noticed two
or three beautiful towns; but
their view was the railroad
and their crops potatoes.

I will write as I have
time - Tell Mr. Pease to send
me a paper - the Examiner
or Inquirer -

Yours affly
Wm. George Pease

[before 23 Nov. 1861]

(George Meridyth Peek)

#10

6 pg ink

- Thursday night -
Florence W. University,
Florence Ala.

Mr dear Ma,

I arrived at this place at 5'o clk this morning, and would have written you before, but the mail does not start til twelve to-morrow-and well it is, for I should have been able to tell you so much of the place the people &c - The institution was formeily a flurishing college, but, now, on account of the was, the Colligiante department is almost entirely destroyed, as but two or three boys are here advanced enough to enter upon the Collegiate Course. Hence the school has been opened for smaller boys, and the duties revolving upon me will not be of that high Collegiate character that we had had anticipated. In fact it is now a mere school.

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(George Meridyth Peek)

10 pg 2

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Give my love to all Sis & Jennie expecially - Tell all I didnt bid "good by" because farewell speeches are very unpleasant task to preform. I shall be more pleased to give them the meeting solitary when I return.

By the next mail I will write Sis & Jennie I will also write to Willie to day. informing him of my. situation &c.. -

I hope to get frequent letters from you all, which alone can make my stay here any ways plesant during the exceeding state of trouble & excitement that is abroad in the land.

I have noticed many villages on the route here - the pretiest were in Georgia. The villages of North & South C. are depot appearently - Even the town of Goldsboro is but another Williamsburg - None of them seem to be so large a Hampton.

In Georgia I noticed two or three beautiful towns, but there never was the railroad and there oysters potatoes.

I will write as I have time - Tell Pa please send me a paper - The examiner or Enquire.

Your Aff.

Lov George M Peek

Frederic V. Coville,
Greenville (S.C.)
Nov 23rd 1861.

My dear Sir,

The next mail from this place since I last wrote starts at Ten o'clock today, and in order to comply with my promise I must write you this evening. In my last letter I gave a general outline of my journey and where + the place &c - I will now particularize - At a home that would suit us in the Spring south I have not seen one, either the engineers have tracked the railroad through poor and swampy ground, especially in the States of N. + S. Carolina, or the rich + beautiful lands are not at all in that section - Through North C. an interminable waste of pine forest stretched itself from one end of the state to the other, interspersed occasionally with farm houses and cleared land. Little villages actually built in pine thickets resembling Cockburn very much - a half dozen houses built promiscuously - at which the cars always stopped

were somewhat plentiful. In this forest
of pines you could see the marks of in-
sisting in the skinned trees, from which
the North Carolinians produce their chief
staple. Tar, pitch & turpentine. Cotton
seemed to be the chief production of almost
every farm I saw in N. S. Carolina
Georgia & Alabama. I saw in many
instances Negroes in the fields picking
it. The baskets looked as if they were filled
with snow. The town of Florence is somewhat
larger than most of the towns on the route.
It is laid off very well, with wide streets,
and was a place of considerable
business the back country affording three
companies of woolen manufacturers and
great abundance of cotton which was
shipped from this place down the Tennessee
to the Mississippi. The place is removed
from the river about a half mile, because
they say people living on the river are
subject to chills & fever. The ground
here is high and rolling and has every
appearance of being a very healthy
location. The college is a very good building
large and commodious; built on an eminence
and surrounded by a grove of oak trees -
a beautiful place in summer no doubt.

The town is scattering occupying a much
larger space than other towns, but not
so populous. They have little sale stores
here that do not sell at retail at all.
The inhabitants are quiet and social,
and very patriotic - the men (most of
them) have gone to the war; and although
a great number of the young men of this
place, in proportion to its population, were
either killed or wounded in the battle of
Manassas, yet many of them are now
marching on to Columbus, individually
without organization, to repel the attacks
which would threaten that place.

Although, here a friend has been slain
and there a brother has died in camp,
the dangers of the battle are not estimated
at all! All that is asked is "shall the
enemy conquer?"

From what I can hear I think the village
of La Grange, Ala. is a very pretty place.
It is about 10 miles from here; and, I
think, is the seat of "Brownwood
Institute." Look at that book I had an
see - If the war should end and
that Institute be for sale, it would be a
splendid investment I think.

Mr. John is the man who owns it,

and says he will sell it at a very
reasonable price - & when the work was
and we get paid then we may
think about it - I have seen no
living ladies at all since I was
here - I have no doubt that there
are plenty of them here and rich ones
too! As Mr. Lee says the country
is a very rich one supporting some
two cotton factories and several woolen
factories, which are owned exclusively by
about 2 or 4 men - These factories are making
loads of money. The woolen factories man-
ufacture goods like Pa. longit for Billy's
Co., &c. That will be the uniform of
the ~~Committee~~ academy when the
boys are uniformed - I hope I shall
be able to visit you all next summer
when we shall be able to enter
Pizzonia in style & state -

I have written the subject
of seeing you - If this should turn
out to be my home, every thing shall
conduce to my advancement, and nothing
not even the ladies shall hinder me in
reaching my object - whatever it may
be - Give my love to all my friends -
Send to Jennie & all home folk - & Mollie -
Please write us often as you can - Send our father
your aff. bro. George -

(George Meridyth Peek)

#2

4 pg look

Wesleyan University
Florence Ala.
Nov 23rd 1861.

My dear Sis ,

The next mail from our place since I last wrote starts at twelve o'clock today, and in order to comply with my promise., I must write you this morning.. In my last letter I gave a general outline of my Journey & duties & the place &c- I will now facticulauise - as to a home that would suit us in the sunny south - I have not seen one. Either the Engineer have tracked the railroad through poor and swampy ground., especially in the. states of N.&S. Carolina as the Rich & Beautiful lands and not at all in that section-Through North C. an interminable waste. of Pine Forest stretches itself from one end of the state to the other, interspersed occasionally with farm houses., and cleared land. Little villages. actually built in pine thickets resembling. cockeltown very much - a half dozen houses built promiscuously -- at which the car arways stopped were some what plentiful. In this forest of pines you could see the maker of industry in the skinned trees, from which the North Carolinians produce there chief staple, tar pitch & Turpentine. Cotton seemed to be the chief production of almost every farm. I saw in N&S Carolina, Georgia & Alabama. I saw in many instances negroes in the field picking it. The basket looked as if they were filled with snow. The town of Florence is somewhat larger than many of the towns on the route. It is laid off very well, with wide streets, and was a place of consederable business. The back country affording three companies of wollen manufactures and great abundance of cotton which was shipped from this place down the Tennesse to the Missippie. The place is removed from the river about a half mile, because they say people living on the river are subject to chills & fever. The ground here is high & rolling and has every appearance of being a very healthy location. The college is a very good building large and commodious built in all eminence and surrounded by a grove of oak trees - a beautiful place in summer no doubt.

The Town is scattering occupying a much larger space than Hampton, but not so populous. They have whole sale stores here that do not sell at retail at all. The inhabitants are Quiet and social and very patrotic - The men most of them have gone to the war. And Although a great number of the Young men of this place, in proportion to its its population were either killed or wounded in the battle of Manassas, yet many of them are now rushing on to Columbus, indivually without organizations, to repell the attack which now threatens that place.

Although here a friend has been slain there a brother had died in camp the danger of the battle are not estimated at all. All that I asked is "shall the Enemy conquer.?"

From what I can here I think the village of La Grange, Ala is a very pretty place. It is about 10 miles from here, and I think is the seat of "Broomwood Institute" look at that book I had and see - if the war should end and that instituttee be for sale it would be a splended investment I think.

Mr. Wm John is the man who owns it, and says he will sell it at a very reasonable price, &c- when the war ends. And we get paid then we may think about it - I have seen no young ladies at all since Ive been here-I have no doubt that there are plenty of them here., and sick ones too! As Mr. Rice says. the country is

(George Meridyth Peek)

2 page 2

a very rich one. supporting some two cotton factories and several woolen factories, which are owned exclusively by about 3 or 4 men - These factories are making cords of money. The woolen factories manufacture goods like Pa bought. for Billy's Company. That will be the uniforms of the eompany academy. when the boys are uniformed - I hope I shall be able to visit you all next summer when we shall be able to enter Pizzinis in style & state -

I live with the expectation of seeing you - If this should turn out to be my house, every thing shall conduce to my advancement and nothing not even the ladies shall Hinder me in reaching my object - what ever it may be - Give my love to all my friends and to Jennie & all home folks & Mollie - Please write as often as you can - send the paper.

Your aff Bro Georgie

Florence Ala.
Monday Dec. 4. 1864

My dear Sir,

I received your letter with a note from Jennie on Saturday. Nothing has been more delightful to me since I've been in Florence, than the reception of this letter.

I was really sorry to hear that Mary had fallen so sick, and that the result of anxiety & trouble. We all have to bear great afflictions in these days of calamity; but I was rejoicing that all seemed to bear them so nobly and so well.

It spoils it all, though, to think that one even should have fallen under the weight. I really hope by this time the attack has passed over and Mary has recovered.

On Friday night for the first time since I've been here I visited some ladies - I was invited to take tea with Judge Moore, the regular circuit judge of the Northern District of Alabama, who seems to treat me with great respect and favor. While there his nephew came over and insisted on my going to his home and seeing some ladies who were there.

The judge, of course could not deprive me of the enjoyment - and both went over - where I became acquainted with three young ladies - Miss Foster - Miss O'Neal and another one whose name I did not hear, for there was something about her very remarkable, which attracted all my attention at the time, so that I did not listen to the name at all. Compared to our Hampton belles not one of them is pretty - but all are interesting. The judge, of whom I speak, is quite a prominent man in this state. He once received a very large vote in a Democratic Convention (the last one) for their nominee for the gubernatorial chair. He speaks of raising a regiment, and in lieu of which, he is learning tactics, and is a regular attendant on my drill at the college -

The people of Florence all call me either "Professor or Captain"; We will have a uniform, but there is a poor prospect of getting guns. Ask Pa to talk with Mr. Booker and see if there are some arms useless to the state of Va. that we could get? I get letters from Willie pretty

regularly, but he has said nothing about his sweetheart - By the way, I have made the acquaintance of a young lady whose father's wealth is incalculable - She owns one of the largest factories of woollen cloths in this country, which is paying him now cords of money - besides parts of other factories - cotton &c - and plantations, etc, etc, I have written to Willie to let him know that she will suit him exactly - being to fall in status for me. She has other qualities of course - I have learned from Mrs. Rice that her father wants her to marry a mathematician who can take his place in the management of the factories. I am not carried away by the ladies of Florence to any alarming extent - and you need have no apprehension that I will get a sweetheart from among them - I think on the contrary that if Judge Moore will put off raising his regiment til the summer - I will fish for a big position in it - I don't care if it is even Major - This morning three young ladies came to visit our drill - two of them I had before been introduced to, and the acquaintance

of the other I made this morning. If being acquainted with the ladies will help me to enjoy my Christmas I think I'll have a pretty good time -

I sent, in my letter, 3 \$, which I wished returned in money that would pass here. I have also a 10 \$ North Carolina note I will send for exchange also -

The 3, however, were not returned as I expected - You must put two five cent stamps on your letter or I will have to pay the additional 5 cts for every letter and as we are not allowed to send letters without prepayment and there are no stamps here - ~~hence~~ every letter I write home will cost me 10 cts if I receive one in return, provided you fail to pay your postage.

You need not send my books or any thing, if you have not sent them as I can get along without them - I have one class in Cicero and one in Quadratic Equations in Algebra & they are the highest classes I have - I have much time to bestow to other things and if I could get law books I would commence the study of law - It would do no harm at any rate - write to me as often as possible -
You all too. Georgia -

of the other I made this morning. If being acquainted with the ladies will help me to enjoy my Christmas I think I'll have a pretty good time.

I sent, in my letter, 3 \$, which I asked returned in money that would have done. I have also a 10 \$ North Carolina note I will send for exchanging also.

The 3, however, were not returned as a matter - You must put two five cent stamps on your letter or I will have to pay the additional 5 cts for my letter as we are not allowed to send letters without postage and there are no stamps here. Hence every letter I write home will cost me 10 cts; if I receive one in return, provided you fail to pay your postage.

You need not send my books or any thing, if you have not sent them as I can get along without them. I have one class in Cicero and one in Quadratic Equations in Algebra & they are the highest classes I have.

I have much time to bestow to other things and if I could get law books I would commence the study of law. It would do no harm at any rate - write to me as often as possible -
Yours affly Geo. J. Georgia.

(George Meridyth Peek)

#3

4 pg sick

Florence Ala.
Monday Dec 9- 1861.

My dear Sis,

I received your letter with a note from Jennie on Saturday. Nothing has been more delightful to me since I've been in Florence, than the reception of this letter.

I was really sorry to hear that Mary had fallen so sick, and that the result of anxiety & trouble. We all have to bear great afflictions in these days of Calamity; but I was rejoicing that all seemed to bear them so nobly and so well.

It spoils it all, thought, to think that one even should have fallen under the weight. I really hope by this time the attack has popped over and many lay recovered.

On Friday night. for the first time since I've been here, I was invited to take tea with Judge Moore, The regular Circuit judge of Northern district of Alabama, who seems to treat me with great respect and favor. While there his nephew came over and visited on my going to his house. and seeing some ladies who were there.

The Judge of course could not deprive me of the enjoyment - and both went over - Where I became acquainted with three young ladies - Miss Foster - Miss Oneal and another one whose name I did not hear, for there was something about her very remarkable which attracted all my attention at the time, so that I did not listen to the name at all. Compared to our Hampton belles not one of them is pretty but all are interesting. The Judge of whom I speak is quite a prominent man in this state. He once received a very large Vote in a democratic Convention. (The last one) for there nominee for the Gubernatinal. Chair. He speaks of raising a regiment and in lieu of which, he is leaning tactics, and is a regular attendented on my drill at the College -

The people of Florence call me either "professor on Captian", We will have a uniform, but there is a poor prospect of getting guns. Ask Pa to talk with Mr. Booker and see if there are some arms useless to the state of VA. that we could get? -.

I get a letters from Willie pretty. regularly, but he has said nothing about his sweetheart - By the Way, I have made acquaintance of a young lady whose fathers wealth is incalculable - He owns one of the largest factories of woolen clothes in this county, which is paying him now cords of money - beside parts of other factories - cotton &c - and plantations, Ect. Ect. I have written to Willie to let him know that she will suit him exactly - being too tall in statue for me. She has other qualities of course - I have learned from Mrs Rice that her father wants her to marry - a mathematician who can take his place at the management office factories. I am not carried away by the ladies of Florence to any alarming extent - And you need have no apprehension that I will get a sweet heart from among them - I think on the contrary that Judge Moore. will put off raising his regiment til the Summer - I will fish for a big position in it. - I don't care if it is even a Major -

(George Meridyth Peek)

3 page 2

This morning three young ladies came to visit our drill - two of them I had before been introduced to , and the acquaintance of the other I made this morning. If being acquainted with the ladies will help me to enjoy my Christmas I think I'll have a pretty good time.

I sent, in my letter, 3\$ which I wished returned in money that would pass here - I have a 10\$ North Carolina note I will send for exchange also -

The 3 however, were not returned as I expected - You must put two five cents stamps on your letter or I will have to pay the additional 5 cts. for every letter and as we are not allowed to send letters without prepayment and there are no stamps here. Every letter I write home cost me 15 cts. if I receive one in return, provided you fail to pay your postage.

You need not send my books or any thing if you have not sent them as I can get along without them - I have one class in Cicero and one in (? ? ?) Equations in Algebra & they are the highest classes I have -

I have much time to liston to other things. and if I could get law books I would Commence to study law. I would do no harm at any rate - write to me as often as possible

Your aff Bro.
George.

Firenze Dec: 14. 81

My dear Ma.

Although you think that I am better situated and perhaps better off than any of those who are away from home - yet you must have a letter every week.

I shall hereafter endeavour to write a letter once a week although it is very hard to write even two letters to one.

Last evening I spent at Judge Moore's. The same gentlemen were present at which I took tea some time since. He seems to have taken a great fancy to me and has as I have reported invited me to his house twice to spend a social evening together. I have also spent an evening, or rather, taken tea with Dr. Stewart a very prominent man in this district from whom I learned a great deal about Secretary Walker, who is, by the way, from this very town and well known to every body. The people, although they had conferred offices of trust upon Walker, had but little faith in the appointment of the president when he called him to was-
Sest in the Cabinet.

Mr. Stewart says, that out of 40 appointments (I think) from the State of Alabama to the Commissary and Quartermaster's department of the Army, during the last days of his administration about 33 were members of the State legislature, evidently aiming at the Senator's berth. He thinks that some strong hints were thrown out by the President for him to resign.

I have also been invited, and accepted and complied with my invitation to Mr. Foster's house, who is the president of the board of trustees of this institution, and, what's more, the brother of the Member of Congress from this district. Young Foster, who is a student at the College, on the occasion of his birthday, gave a candy-stew, which I had the pleasure of attending, and of making the acquaintance of some of the finest ladies in Florence.

Mrs Foster is a strict old-fashioned Methodist, and also Mr. Foster. They live in the finest residence in Florence. The front yard is beautifully laid off in gravelled walks and flower beds. The water is run as to form a heart, the point of which comes up exactly opposite the centre of the front door. The house is a fine

brick building with a beautiful and showy front - Marble steps and lofty white pillars which support the roof of the porch. and inside they have the very best furniture and fitted up after the very best and most fashionable style; and yet, they are strict Methodists. Not the shadow of a dance was permitted, not even a foot was allowed to be crossed or ~~to~~ ~~beat~~ the floor in time with one of the most splendid pianos accompanied by the sweetest vocal instruments out side of Virginia.

But the greatest pleasure I enjoy here is to hear that in every letter that comes from Virginia the ladies of my old state, and the people generally are praised to the skies.

Almost every one has a bright angel in Virginia that has administered to the wants and sufferings of some near and dear relative; and the people of this county + town have suffered greatly; for the 4th Alabama which according to the Yankee General's report sustained and repulsed the successive attacks of 3 Northern regiments and, consequently, suffered so grievously, came from here.

Many were their wounded and slain on that day, and many a family in Florence was bereaved in consequence - Judge Motte

lost a brother, not exactly in the fight, but in consequence of it - having taken sick from the fatigue and exposure of that day, from which he never recovered. Several of the wounded can be seen now walking on wooden legs & with arms in sling on these streets.

Mrs. Rice has given me a long string or history of her family &c - which would not interest you much I reckon - She has 2 brothers, all in the army. 2 Colo: and one adjutant - The oldest one was at the time a lawyer at the bar and a Methodist preacher and was a judge when he was called out - or had been - for he is called Judge Wood, and is said to be one of the first lawyers at the bar here.

She has been educated in a Catholic Nursery - Near Georgetown Steady. Always has a great many incidences to tell about the sisters &c. My Company has not been able to procure arms yet - If we could get them from the state of Pa we would go security &c - but there is a poor chance I suppose - Pa may see Mr. Curtis about it - and let me know. I am enjoying pretty good health at present.

Give my love to little Jesse & all - Tell him to make haste and write to his brother
Georgie.

(George Meridyth Peek)

#4

4 pg link

Florence Dec 14th 61

My dear Ma.

Although you think that I am better situated and perhaps better off than any of those who are away from home - yet you must have a letter every week.

I shall hereafter endeavour to write a letter once a week although it is very hard to write even two letters to one.

Last evening I spent at Judge Moor's The same gentlemans house, at which I took tea some time since. He seems to have taken a great fancy to me and has as I have reported invites me to his house twice to spend a social evening together. I have also spent an evening, or rather, taken tea with Dr Stewart a very prominent man in this district from whom I learned a great deal about Secretary Walker, who is, by the way, from this very town and well known to every body. The people, although they had conferred officer of Trust upon Walker, had but little faith in the appointment of the president when he called him to war - seat in the Cabinet.

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She has been educated in a Catholic Nunery near Georgetown near by. Always by a great many incidents to tell about the sister &c -

My Company has not been able to procure arms yet - If we could get them from the State of VA. We would go secretly &c. - but there is a poor chance I suppose - Pa may see Mr. Custis about it - and let me know. I am enjoying pretty good health at present.

Give my love to little Jesse & all tell him to make hast and write to his brother.

Gergie.

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY,

Florence, Ala., *c. 22 1851*.

The following is an Exhibit of the grade of Scholarship and of the Department (as far as known to the Faculty,) of _____, a member of the _____ Class, for the quarter ending on the _____ day of _____ 185

DEPARTMENTS OF STUDY.	Quality of Recitations. Number of Recitations.	Absence from Recitations.		General Department.	Demerits.	Absence from Chapel.	Absence from Church.
		Excused.	Not Excused.				
Latin,.....	<i>Red top right</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Greek,.....							
Mathematics							
Mental Science,....							
Natural "							
" Philosophy.							
Belles-Lettres							
Eloquence,.....	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Composition.....							

EXPLANATION.
denotes Very Good.
Good.
Respectable.
Bad.
Very Bad.

My dear R. H. Rivers, D. D.,
I regretted yesterday to get some writing prepared and to say if I could write to you I must I wish to one of the
President.
Secretary of the Faculty.

I have been thinking of writing
to you for some time. I have
not had time - indeed but now
from Liverpool my dear old mother
since I have been in France
and I do not know
I will not be able to write to
you I did last Sunday.
We have had no real winter
here yet - no ice and but little frost
The cold winds of the North soften
down into mild & pleasant breezes
by the time they reach the shores
of France. I never remember to
see snow or any snow since
I last wrote. The people in France
are very sociable; and, from all
appearances, will celebrate
Carnival as if there were no war.

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I have never been able to organize
my company since I've been here.
The material is so bad, and the
lack of my not being able to
be gone almost any where is
impossible. yet I have to
get yet - for that is my only hope
to ~~maintain the military department~~
to be thoroughly organized if
I would remain here another
year or seek a higher position -
The people here have not
yet had to be vaccinated yet - a
battalion of a regiment is now in
Florence waiting to be filled
to garrison a fort on the Tennessee
River - not far from this place.

I will write well and ex-
pect to enjoy myself as much as
could be expected in my 3 days
holiday Christmas. Please let me
have a letter from you as soon as
you can find time to write - probably
you is on the way - I bid it all
possible speed. Love to all - will -
Gerrit

(George Meridyth Peek)

#5

(written on report card)

402 ink

Dec 22- 1861.

(vertically on face of report)

Dont you forget to send my 3\$ that you received in my letter some time ago. I have also 10\$ North C. Note that is no use to me.

My dear sis.

I neglected yesterday to get some writing paper and today If I would write home, I must resort to one of our students reports I am sure however that you owe me a letter for I have received only one letter from you or from Virginia, my dear old home - since I've been here in Florence.

But to keep up Ma'a regeest, I will write another letter to day as I did last Sunday.

We have had no cold weather here yet - no ice and but little frost. The cold winds of the North Soften down into mild & plesant breezes. by the time they reach this land of flowers. I have made but few new acquaintances since I last wrote. The people in F. are very sociable; and from all appearances, will celebrate Christmas although we all changed with the war. The ladies all lively and chearful, but there is no superficial show and destestable rivley to surpass in dress about them as I noticed among the ladies of Little Rock. Many of them are rich and wheel about the streets in their fine carriages, but acknowalge their old School mates, and where ever you find a gathering you will see both indiscriminately mingerd together, dressed in the same style - with the same cheerful face, bragging alike of the work they, with their own fingers, have done for the Soldiers. Unlike most strikingly unlike that hateful spirt of jelousy that raings among the circle of Little Rock but more like the happy unity and harmony that, used to characterize our dear Old Hampton.

I have never been able to organize my Company since Ive been here. The material is so bad - and the fact of my not being able to get guns almost renders it impossible - yet I hope to comply, but yet for that is my only hope to have the military department here thoroughly organized; if I would remain here another year to seek a higher position.

The people here have not asked to Volunteer yet. A part of a regiment is now in Florence waiting to be filled to garrison a fort on the Tennessee - not far from this place.

I am quite well and expect to enjoy my self as much as, could be expected as my 3 day holiday Christmas - Please let me have a letter from you as soon as you can find time to write - hopefully..one is on the way. - I bid it all possible speed - Love to all. I hope Mollie is well.

Georgie.

Dear Mr. [unclear]

My dear Ma,

I received your kind letter
 and was glad to hear from
 you. I am well and hope
 you are the same. I received
 your letter of the 1st inst. and
 in answer to it I write to you
 as still in the same state, which
 I can only be attributed to the unusual
 soldier that some of us were in
 a measure of the same. When frequently
 I would hear, especially of some of the
 family, that so many brothers were absent
 in the war, and what an empty vacuum
 in our enjoyment is experienced compared
 to the pleasure and enjoyings of our last
 Christmas! I could not think of the situation
 of my kinsmen in Virginia, and of my
 dear home folks, scattered and driven
 from their homes, and the anniversary
 of this day, instead of bringing peace & enjoyment,
 only caused them to think ^{in vain} of the prospects
 they once enjoyed. Our little ones hang up
 no stockings this Christmas; but, not only thought
 of their absent fathers, but also of their pillaged

and the beauty of the...
 of the ice, he must have...
 to a...
 and enjoy...
 of...
 of the...
 a...
 to...

I will my...
 at Mr. Foster's...
 of the...
 as we...
 -Mrs. The first...
 to the...
 and the family...
 and a...
 Scotch...
 cake and...
 dining. To day...
 dining at his house...
 from the...
 our president's. To night...
 see some...
 Mr. Foster's...
 a...

The Ladies of Stamford and all the...
 and connections of dear old Stamford
 are sweeter to me than any other I
 can possibly form. These...
 formed in youth, and they grow with the
 mind. I have known the...
 a daughter of a Methodist...
 dead, she is an orphan...
 no father, but two brothers, one...
 the other the subject of her...
 about as old as...
 the sweetest...
 and kind, almost...
 the Methodist...
 notice...
 ladies in Florence...
 not seen the one I...

and now I think I have some
 little reason to complain that I have
 received only one letter from...
 I've been here - some...
 perhaps. But as to write for I must
 confess I feel a little uneasy about you all.
 And now Ma I would ask to take...
 from that school he was going to...
 a cross and crooked old maid is...
 and will ruin the mind of any child -

I have had a very good time in the
house and nothing unusual has happened
to disturb you (things) - write to me -
Yours affly
George M. Peck

(George Meridyth Peek)

#6

34 pg ink

Florence Ala Dec26-61

My dear Ma,

Christmas day has past and now we can only act and muse over what is gone never to be retrieved

While all is quiet and enjoyment yesterday, among the good people in Florence, in almost every circle I visited, there was still an uneasiness manifested, which could only be attributed to the universal sadness that reigns almost every where in Consequence of the war. Where frequently I would hear, assisted by some one of the family, "that so many brothers were absent in the war, and what a empty vacuum in our enjoyment is experiences compaired to the pleasure and rejoicing of our last Christmas!" I could but think of the situation of my townsmen in Virginia, and of my dear home folks, scattered and driven from there homes, and the anniversary of this day, instead of bringing rejoice & enjoyment only causes them to think in sorrow of the prosperity they once enjoyed. Our little ones hung up no stockings this Christmas, but, not only thought of there absent brother, but also of there pillaged homes and blasted hopes. I thought that these folks, instead of complaining should rejoice, because they were permitted to sit down in their own nicely furnished homes and enjoy unmolested their splendidly prepared dinner, sparklin wine, and delicious fruit, when many of the sufferies of this country craved for a peice of bread their dog would - would refuse to eat in other times.

I had my Christmas dinner by special invitation, at Mr. G. W. Fosters, the president of the board of trustees. It was not such a dinner as we used to have at Christmas. The first course was about equal to the common dinings we used to have - When the family would gather together and a turkey of unusual size would be rosted &c. The second course was only cake & custard and that ended dining. Today Pro. Rice will have a dining at this house, which I think from the preparation, will surpass our presidents. To night I am invited to see some young ladies, who expect to be at Mr Fosters, and yet I will not forget for a moment, the dear ones I have left behind. The ladies of Hampton did all the associations and Connections of dear old Hampton all sweeter to me than any other I can possibly form. These endearments were formed in youth, and they grow with the mind. I have made the acquandance of a daughter of a methodist preacher who is now dead. She is a orphan having neither mother nor father, but two brothers, one in the war the other the object of her special care, being about as old as Jesse. She is without exception the smartest young lady in Florence, cheerful and lively, almost wild, but a member of the Methodist Church. Her name is Miss Mollie Ragland and among the nicest young ladies in Florence, but Mr Rice says, I have not seen the one I'll fall in love with yet.

And now I think I have some little reason to Complain that I have received only one letter from home since I've been here - now some two months - probably Get Sis to write for I must confess I feel a little uneasy. about you all.

And now Ma I would ask to take little Jesse from that school he was going to when I left. A cross and crabbid old maid is detestable, and will ruin the mind of any child - I have had experinces enough in teaching to know that. I hope all well at home and nothing unusual has happned. to disturb your feelings -
Love to all -

Your aff Son.
George M Peek

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

Post Scriptum.

Apart from all other considerations my own wishes in the matter is to come home. I can't study here, where there is from 10 to 20 leaving daily and at least one dying every week.

I feel much discouraged in my studies and know that I can't make much progress between now at the end of the session - After I leave I can soon get into some tolerable situation (with the recommendations I can get here) and then make more than a living.

I await anxiously what you have to say and will willingly comply with your wish whatever it may be

Yours
-Willie

This has not been done hastily - I have been thinking about it for a long time.



(William Hope Peek)

C

1 pg. encl

(P S of a letter from Ark. 1861)

Post Scription.

Apart from all other considerations my own wishes in the matter is to come home. I can't study here, where there is from 10 to 20 leaving daily and at least one dying every week.

I feel much discouraged in my studies and know that I can't make much between now at the end of the session - After I leave I can soon get into some tolerable situation (with the recommendations I can get here) and then make more than a living.

I await anxiously what you have to say and will willingly comply with your wish whatever it may be.

Yours
Willie

This has not been done hastily - I have been thinking about it for a long time.

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

gloves were offered her for some thirty odd cents a pair - very cheap indeed - she bought them - when she had better given 1/4 per pair and only bought them as she needed them. She acknowledges in her conversation the great excellence of economy and I think she is trying every day to practise it, with some slight show of success too. I do not despair of ultimate success on her part in a measure - and it would be far more complete if Brothos. (whom she loves very dearly & who by skilful management can greatly control her,) would gently direct her in the proper path. He may be doing this too. for he should (if he does it ^{at} all) do it in so subtle & imperceptible a way as not to be patent to her much less to me a mere looker on.

There is in his store room I might say a profusion of pickles, preserves - cordials &c - and some brandy, peaches. There may not be any great extravagance in having those things as when they were at the arsenal they were entitled to all the sugar & liquor necessary to make them - out of the government stores there. They have not yet felt the expenses of housekeeping for up to this time he was supplied with groceries from the stores at the arsenal - and the money to pay for those over and above what he was entitled to - coming out of his salary was not missed much. Brother Thomas is very energetic and I have not a doubt but that he will always get along well if he does not become able to live luxuriantly and in style, of which there is a very fair probability. Sister L has a disposition to disregard trifles - while she shrinks from any great outlay - and dresses herself a wardrobe on the score of economy - she spends ^{while} money almost needlessly for many small things - which in the aggregate would buy ^{two or three} wardrobes

She seems to me to do very little sewing, and although she has had a sewing machine for a year or more - she has not yet even learned how to use it.

The troops here have never had any surgeon or asst. appointed yet and not likely to have any - They will probably be disbanded - and even if they were not. I believe my chance would be small for politics even enters there. There are some openings I see vaguely in the future but their existence is not even sure enough to justify me in speaking of them. I shall certainly get out of this way of doing nothing. I am disposed to complain of my family connections too - for tho' I have been a candidate for practice, and Mr. Rabley has had a great deal of sickness (simple) in his family, I have never been sent for - while they have had no less than three other doctors - Some of Mr. Rector's family. Now if my connections here do not employ me how can I expect other people to do so.

Still I am inclined to think that ultimately I may get a very fine practice. The largest practitioner in town lives next door to us - has invited me to occupy his office - and I hope, as he is very tired of practice & neglects his patients - to work in some there. I made my first fee to day while sitting in his office - a man came in - wanted a D^r. I prescribed - and when he asked me what I charged - came very near telling him nothing and could not really say \$2.50 as I should - but took only one dollar from him. Yesterday we had some legislators to dine with us - and a very nice dinner we had too - Bro. has met with a misfortune a day or two ago - lost about 60 or 70 in state bonds. This paper is growing in favor every day, and this is prospect of its paying - If I can think of anything else I'll write more - if not give love to all - affectionately yours.

(William Hope Peek)

8

(last of letter Little Rock, Ark. 1861)

2 pg ink

gloves were offered her for some thirty odd cents a pair very cheap indeed - she bought them - when she had better given 1\$ per pair and only bought them as she needed them. She acknowledges in her conversation the great excellence of economy and I think she is trying every day to practice it, with some slight show of success too. I do not despair of ultimate success on her part in a measure - and it would be far more complete if Bro Thos. (whom she loves very dearly & who by skilful management can greatly control her,) would gently direct her in the proper path. He may be doing this too - for he should (if he does it at all) do in so subtle & imperceptible a way as not to be patent to her much less to me a mere looker on.

There is her storeroom I might say a profusion of pickles preserves - cordials ec. - and some brandy peaches. There may not be any great extravagance in having those things as when they were at the arsenal they were entitled to all the sugar & liquor necessary to make them - out of the government stores there. They have yet felt the expenses of housekeeping for up to this time he was supplied with groceries from the stores at the arsenal - and the money to pay for those over and above what he was entitled to coming out of his salary was not missed much. Brother Thomas is very energetic and I have 'nt a doubt but that he will always get along well if he does not become able to live luxuriantly and in style, of which there is a very fair probability. Sister L has a disposition to disregard trifles - which she shrinks from any great outlay - and denies herself a wardrobe on the score of economy while she spends money almost needlessly for many small things - which in the aggregate would buy two or three wardrobes.

She seems to me to do very little sewing and although she has had a sewing machine for a year or more - she has not yet even learned how to use it.

The troops here have never had any surgeon or asst. appointed yet and not likely to have any - They will probably be disbanded and even if they were not I believe my chance would be small - for politics even enters there. There are some openings I see vaguely in the future but their existence is not even sure enough to justify me in speaking of them. I shall certainly get out of this way of doing nothing. I am disposed to complain of my family connections too - for tho' I have been a candidate for practice, and Mr. Rapley has had a great deal of sickness (simple) in his family, I have never been sent for - while they have had no less than three other doctors - Same of Mr. Rector's family - Now if my connections here do not employ me to now care I expect other people to do so. Still I am inclined to think that ultimately I may get a very fine practice. The largest practitioner in town lives next door to us - has invited me to occupy his office - and I hope, as he is very tired of practice & neglects his patients - to work in some there. I made my first fee to day while setting in his office - a man came in - wanted a Dr. I prescribed - and when he asked me what I charged - came very near telling him nothing and could not really say \$2.50 as I should - but took only one dollar from him. Yesterday we had some legislatures to dine with us - and a very nice dinner we had too - Bro Thos. met with a misfortune a day or two ago - lost about \$5 or \$10 in state bonds. His paper is growing in favor every day, and there is prospect of its paying - If I can think of anything else I'll write more - if not give love to all -

Affectionately
Willie

#4720

PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1862: Jan.-May

Folder 3 of 9

or 7 1/2 ... 10 1/2 ...

Dear Sir,

I was very glad to get a letter from you a few days ago. It was the 2nd letter I have received from you since I left and certainly it was not an unpleasant message. I will not call this little note an answer to it, for I have much to tell you in my next letter. I have visited an unexplored cave in this County and penetrated, perhaps, farther than any one has ever gone. I was perfectly delighted with my trip. We staid in the cave from 7 in the evening till after 10 and went in in the morning again and spent 3 more hours. When I came out the second time I was completely exhausted and nervous, but soon recovered. It has been some days since I was there and when I write again will give you a description of it. I have no time to write you a long letter to day, but will put it off til next Sunday. I am anxious to know whether Willie has arrived in Richmond? Write me as soon as you get this, if it is only 3 lines. If you can I would like to see you, if such a thing is possible.

possibly, he obtained a key to "Loomis' Algebra"
or to any other considerable algebra,
and send it immediately. Messrs. Smith &
Loomis will send it by mail if they have it
by paying a little extra -

I am enjoying myself here as
well as expected. My duties are becoming
less onerous every day, although I have
much more to do when I first
came here -

Our President Dr. Young, the tallest
and finest looking man I ever saw, has
joined us now, and we are in regular
operation as a college. Since I have
formed my company I am dubbed
Major by my friends. All is well
with me. I have not heard from Willie
~~since~~ for a month or more -

Give my love to all - kiss little
Jesse, and tell all the boys I'll
be amongst them before they get
big enough to shoot youkey -

P.S. Your brother
Geo. W. Peck

Please to tell me if you got
3¢ I sent in a letter?

asked it in every
letter - almost

(George Meridyth Peek)

#7

2 pg note

F.W.U. - Jan 2nd/62

Dear Sis,

I was very glad to get a letter from you a few days ago. It was the 2nd letter I have received from home since I left and certanety it was not an un-pleasant message. I will not call this little note an answee to it for. I have much to tell you in my next letter - I have visited an unexplored cave in this country and penetrated, perhaps, farther than any one has ever gone - I was perfectly delighted with my trip. We staid in the cave from 7 in the evening til after 10 and went in the morning again and spend 3 more hours. When I came out the second time I was completely exhausted and nervous, but soon recovered - It has been some days since I was there and when I write again will give you a description of it. I have no time to write you a long letter to day, but will put it off till next Sunday. I am anxious to know whether Willie has arrived in Richmond. Write me a soon as you get this, if it is only 3 lines. If you Can. I would like (missing) of such a (missing) possibly be obtained a (??) to "Lomig' Algebra" or to any other considerable Algebra and send it immediately - Meprs West & Johnson will send it by mail if they have it by paying a little extra -

I am enjoying myself here as well as expected. my duties are becoming less onerous every day, although I have much more to do when I first came here -

Our president Dr. Young, the tallest and finest looking man I ever saw has joined us now, and we are in regular operation as a college. Since I have formed my Company Im dubbed major by my friends. All is well with me. I have not heard from Willie for a month or more -

Give my love to all - little Jesse, and tell all the boys I'll be amongst them before they get big enough to shoot Yankees.

Your Brother
Geo M Peek

P.S.

Please to tell me if you got 3\$ I sent in a letter?

I have asked it in every letter. (missing) I have written - almost.

F. H. U. San Diego, 12

Dear Sir,

I received yesterday evening
the enclosed document from Pa, with
directions to have it signed and filled
according to law. I could make no ex-
planation to the lawyer at all not know-
ing any thing about it; for I had re-
ceived no intelligence either in this
letter or previously about the purchase
of any property of the kind. As in my
last letter told me, however, that you
had purchased a farm of 16 acres
from Mr Vance for 15000 dollars; but this
deed so far as I could see (and also the
lawyer + Probate Judge to whom I carried
it) reported to be a deed from me to Mr.
Taylor, Trustee for Mr Vance, and, yet, I
had to sign notes to pay money for the
same tract for which I was giving a
deed. The Judge told me that he didn't
know who he could fix it so as to be
admitted to record in Pa nor did he stand
any one who could inform me; but would
do what was necessary in any court in
Pa. If it is not right you will send it

back with full instructions. I hope
it is all right, but if it should be-
come necessary to return it, do not fail
to get the proper instructions ^{etc.} & then I am
to proceed -

I have done the best I could by
the advice I had -

I am progressing very well in
my studies here - our school is increasing
daily - Do not forget to give the enclosed
note to Sis as soon as possible -

Yours &c -

Geo. M. [unclear]

(George Meridyth Peek)

#8

1 1/2 pg ink

F.W. U. Jan 2nd /62

Dear Bros.

I received yesterday evening the enclosed document from Pa, with directions to have it signed and filled according to law. I could make no explanation to the lawyer at all, not knowing any thing about it, for I have received no intelligence either in Pa's letter or previously about the purchase of any proptery of the kind. Sis in her last letter told me, however, that you had purchased the farm of 16 acres. from Mr Dance for 15000 dollars; but this deed so far as I could see/and also the lawyer & probate judge to whom I carried it.) perportes to be a deed from me to Mr Taylor, Trustee for Mr. Dance, and yet I had to sign notes to pay money for the same track for which I was giving a deed. The Judge told me that he didn't know whether he could fix it so as to be admitted to record in VA. nor did he know any one who could inform me, but would do what was necessary in any court in Ala. If it is not right you will send it back with full instructions. I hope it is all right, but if it should become necessary to retain it do not fail to get the proper instructions as to how I am to proceed -

I have done the best I could by the advice I had. -

I am progressing very well in my duties here - Our school is increasing daily - Do not forget to give the enclosed note to Sis as soon as possible

Yours & C
Geo. M Peek

F. W. U. Am. J. 1842

My dear Sir,

It is now Sunday evening and according to arrangement I am in a letter. To day I had the pleasure of receiving Dr. Conroy, the president of our college, preach twice - once in the morning and once in the evening. He is a splendid preacher and a very learned and interesting man. He is 6 feet 7 inches high and well proportioned - making in the main one of the finest looking men I ever saw. I send you a paper with a vice marked, which he wrote about our institution, and which may be of some satisfaction to you, as my department and myself is chiefly the subject of the article.

In your last letter I gather news of which importance, which you spoke of as being familiar to me. But when I tell you that I have received only two letters from you, you will not be surprised when I tell you that every single syllable of your letter was entirely new to me. I am glad to hear that Uncle Jesse is situated in

in hospital in Richmond and thereby
freed from that detestable Company. Mr.
Eddy and is the only one, and I wish (for
I like to forget him) were the only ones
who are a source of trouble to me on ac-
-count of their very unpleasant situation.

When you write again please mention them.
I want to know when you heard from them
etc - Beyond the interesting circumstances and
matter connected with the mining at Lone
I, delight to hear from my friends abroad.
Therefore the mere statement that you re-
-ceived a letter from such or me, and he
was well, would be a great source of
gratification to me. Otherwise, is it possible
that I shall remain here for so many
months and hear not a word from Cousin
Richard's family, Cousin Susan's, the
friends of my youth, who used to be the
very life and vigour of my enjoyment?

I promised to tell you, in a note I
enclosed in that 'law document' I sent
brother John, (tell him I have sent it), to tell
you of a grand trip I had to a cave in
the vicinity of Florence. Well, Prof. Ponslow-
-ski of whom I have spoken before, is very
kind to me (for, indeed, I am his only

companion, inhabiting together this vast
building, in rooms opposite each other)
and offered to lend me his horse at
any time. I accepted him on this occasion
and with five students, who made the
necessary preparations, I started on the
evening of the 31st of December, intending
to bivouac that night in the open air, or
remain in the cave all night and return
the next evening. Accordingly we arrived
at the cave about sundown, and after
building a huge fire (for the air was raw
& cold) and making our coffee and eating
supper we started in the cave; and then
it was about 7 o'clock. A negro had come
on the ground to bring forage for our horses;
and him we took as a guide, although
he had never been more than a few steps
into the cave; and the cave had never been
explored. Nevertheless he knew how to enter, we
thought, and that was all we wanted. So
having prepared our lanterns, and buckling
around an overcoat about me a huge
knife, and all of us being similarly fixed
we proceeded to enter the cave. We advanced
to the entrance and crawled in about
ten steps when we came to a steep pit

where darkness reigned in perpetual
night. We descended into this place by the
craggy rocks, each one aiding the other with
his hand. And now we were all down in
the pit, and so was the Negro. Turning to
the Negro I asked which was the direction
to take. Pointing to the left into the impend-
ing darkness, said "that way". Are you sure? "Yes, Sir,
Massa." Looking around me and seeing that
none were disposed to advance, I led the way.
The top in this direction became lower and
until finally I was compelled to crawl, and
still I went on expecting soon to come to an
opening. But still it became closer and closer
until finally I was compelled to lay flat
upon the floor of the cave and screaming by my
side. Yet I continued, but breathless, came to
where the cave ceased on that side at any
rate. And now I became so exhausted that
I was compelled to take off my coat and
knife and, drag them after me out of the
cave. We reached the pit with me very injured,
beyond fatigue, and went about searching for
another entrance. In a few minutes of
our discovery a hole in the rock made
perfectly smooth by continual ingress and
egress to and from the cave. We crawled
through this and found ourselves in a
shacious hall that wound its way for hun-
dreds of yards under the earth. This we

[5 Jan 1860/5]

followed frequently emerging by narrow and
rocky defiles into grand chambers, each
in surprising proportions. One of these places
so struck me with awe that I called it
the "Rocky Entrance to the Chambers of
Gulches". The chambers were oval shaped,
real domes, that towered high up in
the rock, gently tapering in huge ridges of
rock protruding on all sides like, till they
centered in a honey combed substance wonderfully
resembling the beautiful chandeliers in
Broad St. Methodist Church. There were four of
these in number. Another thing I saw very
remarkable was a deep well, hollowed out
to a considerable depth, and oval shaped
at the top piercing high up in the rock, and
from the top of this the water continued to drip
to the bottom of the well. We spent three
hours in the cave that night. And after spend-
-ing some fodder on the ground in front of our
fire, and fixing the cushions of our buggies
for our pillows, we wrapped our martial
cloaks around us and slept like logs, taking
care to leave ties at the time to keep watch.
The next morning we arose and after
breakfast visited the cave again, when we

Made a few more discoveries and after
dinner left for town. I enjoyed my
trip wonderfully, and so glowing are our
descriptions of what we saw and of
the pleasant time we had that it
has become necessary that we must take
the ladies down there too, which we
will accordingly do shortly. And thus
ends the page history.

A very embarrassing circumstance happened
at church to day, which made me feel
exceedingly. A young lady from the female
Seminary who had gone to hear Dr. Young pre-
ach when coming out of the door surrounded by her
fellows, caught her hoops in the step next to the
top one and fell head long upon her face over
two or three steps upon the ground. Her hoops
continued to strike to the steps and hence
to extricate herself became very difficult - nor
do I know how she succeeded; for having
pity on the feelings of the unfortunate girl
I ascended in double quick time and
left her to her companions, who seemed to
be entirely careless of her condition. Till
I see I've been looking out for that letter she
promised me for many days. My best love
to all -
Your aff. Brother
Geo. M. Peck

(George Meridyth Peek)

#9

64pg ink

F.W.U. Jan 3rd 1862

My Dear Sis,

It is now Sunday evening and according to arrangement I owe you a letter. To day I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Young, the president of our college. preach twice - once in the morning and once in the evening. He is a splendid preacher and a very learned and interesting man. He is 6 feet 7 inches high and very well proportioned - making in the main one of the finest looking men I ever saw. I send you a paper our institution, and which may be of some satisfaction to you; as my department and myself is chiefly the subject of the article.

In your last letter I gathered news of much importance, which you spoke of as being familiar to me. But when I tell you that I have received only two letters from you, you will not be surprised when I tell you that every single syllable of your letter was entirely new to me. I am glad to hear that unlike Jesse is situated in an Hospital in Richmond and truly freed from that detestable Company. Bro Eddie now is the only one and Daniel (for I like to forget him) are the only ones who are ~~a~~ a source of trouble to me on account of their very unpleasant situation.

When you write again please mention them I want to know when you heard from them & ~~x~~ - Beyond the interesting circumstances and matter connected with the family at home I delighted to hear from my friends abroad. Therefore the mere statement that you received a letter from such an one, and he was well, would be a great source of gratification to me. Otherwise, is it possible that I shall remain here for so many months and hear not a word from Cousin Richards family, Cousin Sarah's, the friends of my youth, who used to be the very life and vigour of my enjoyment?

I promise to tell you, in a note I enclosed in that law document I sent brother Jonny (tell him I have sent it) to tell you of a grand trip I had to a cave in the vicinity of Florence. Well Prof. Pruskoski of whom I have spoken before, is very kind to me (for indeed, I am his only companion inhabiting to - gotten this vast building, in rooms opposite each other! and offered to lend me his horse at any time. I accepted him on this occasion and with five students, who made the necessary preparations, I started on the evening of the 31st of December intending to bivouac that night in the open air, or remain in the cave all night and return the next evening. Accordingly we arrived at the Cave about sundown; and after building a huge fire (for the air was raw & cold) and making coffee and eating supper we started in the Cave, and then it was about 7. O'clock. A negro had come on the ground to bring forage for our horses, and him we took as a guide, although he had never been more than a few steps into the cave, and the cave had never been explored. Nevertheless he knew how to enter, We thought, and that was all we wanted. So having prepared one lantern, and buckling around an overcoat about me a huge knife, and all of us being similarly fixed we proceeded to enter the cave. We advanced ten steps when we came across a deep jut followed frequently devouring by narrow and rocky defiles into grand chambers, arches in surprising proportions. One of these pieces so struck me with awe that I called it "Rocky Eurliance" to the chambers of Darkness" The chambers were oval shapes, real domes that towered high up in the rock gently tapering in high ridges of rock protruding on all sides alike, til they centred in a honey comb substance wonderfully resembling the beautiful chandelier in Broad St. Methodist Church. There were four of these in number. Another thing I saw very remarkable was a deep well, hallowed out to a considerable depth, and oval

(George Meridyth Peek)

9 pg 2

shaped at the top piercing high up in the earth, and from the top of this the water continued to drop to the bottoms of the well. We spent three hours in the cave that night. And after spredding some fodder on the ground in front of our fire, and fixing the cushions of our buggies for our pillows, we wrapped our mantial cloaks around us and slept like logs, taking care to leave two at the time to keep watch

The next morning we arose and after break fast visited the cave again, where we made a few more discoveries and after dinner left for town. I enjoyed my trip wonderfully, and so glowing are our descriptions of what we saw and of the splendid time we had that it has become necessary that we must take the ladies down there too, which we'll will accordingly do shortly. And this ends the Cave history.

A very embarrassing circumstance happend at church to day, which made me fell exceedingly. A young lady from the female seminary who had gone to hear Dr. Young preach when coming out of the door surrounded by her fellows, caught her hoops in the step next to the top one and fell head long upon her face over two or three steps upon the ground. The hoops continued to stick to the steps and hence to extract herself became very difficult nor do I know how she succeeded, for having pity on the feeling of the unfortunate girl, I absconded. in double quick time and left her to her companions, who seem to be entirely carless of her condition. Tell Jennie I've been looking out for that letter she promised me for many days. My Best love to all.

Your Aff. Brother
Geo M Peek

France, Dec. 11th 62

My dear Sir, I have had great
difficulty, as I have before said, in
organizing the Military Department
in this Institution - and now I have
gone so far as to establish the Uniforms
and appoint the Officers - Now
I am required to present to the
Board of Trustees a Code of regula-
-tions by which the Military Depart-
-ment is to be governed. After I
shall have done this and procured
guns, which I have determined to
make out of wood and got the
Uniform all fixed, then I shall
consider my work finished for
this year at any rate -

I write at present to see if
I can't get your aid in the
Uniform line. If you are well enough
and if will not be too much fatigue
won't you see if you can get a button
made - a common button with the Stamp
of our College upon it and the letters
F. N. C. placed over the top - (The stamp

You will see on the envelope) and
also a small button for the sleeve
with only the letter on them. I shall
want about 7 gross of the large ones
and 3 gross of the small ones. Also
I would like to have about 6 yds of
gold lace for the Officers arms, and
about two yards of ribbon for the
Collars, black velvet an inch wide
enough to go down the sides of my
pants and a cap - Major's cap, No 6 7/8
to fit me. I only want to know if
you can get these things done and
if you can get them reasonably, I
would like to have them as soon
as possible. The cloths for my
uniform has been presented to me
by one of my friends whose father
owns a factory. We have had several
additions to our school since the
military department has been in
operation. It is almost impossible
for us to get any thing in Florence
to trim our uniform, hence I have
written to you. If the man will
make those buttons he will of course
get all the custom of the institution

in that line. I have written
you as a last resort not
to trouble you about it at all; but
if you think the idea a fruitless
please let me know just as soon
possible.

I am very well and will
write again soon. I haven't fallen
in love with any of the ladies
yet, but like their company exceedingly
well. Please give me a short letter
in haste - I'll tell these things
I have written for I shall be
paid for by the students and will
remit the money, or bring it
when I come.

I am in affection
Your son

Geo. W. Peck

P.S.
The cap must be of
Confederate style - Love to
all -

(George Meridyth Peek)

11,

3 pg ink

Florence Ala Jan 11th 1862

My dear Pa,

I have had great difficulty, as I have before said, in organizing the military department in this institution - and now have gone so far as to establish the uniform and appoint the officers - Now I am required to present to the board of Trustees a code of regulations by which the military department is to be governed. After I shall have done this and procured arms, which I have determined to make out of wood and got the uniform all fixed, then I shall Consider my work finished for this year at any note.

I write at present to see if I can get your aid in the uniform line. If you are well enough and it will not be too much fatigue wont you see if you can get a button made - a common button with the stamp of our College upon it on the letters F.W.C. placed over the top (The stamp you will see on the envelope) and also a small button for the sleeve with only the letters on them - I shall want about 7 gross of the large ones and 3 gross of the small ones Also I would like to have about 6 yds of gold lace for the officers arms, and about two yards of wider for the collars, black velvet an inch wide enough to go down the sides of my pants and a cap. - Major Cap. no 6 7/8 to fit me. I only want to know if you can get these things done and if you can get them reasonably, I would like to have them as soon as possible. The cloth for my uniform had been presented to me by one of my friends whose father owns a factory We have had several additions to our School since the military department has been in operation. It is almost impossible for us to get any thing in Florence to trim our uniform. If the man will make the buttons he will of Course get all the custom of the institution in that line. I have written to you as a last resort not wishing to trouble you about it at all, but if you think the idea a fruitless one please let me know just as soon as possible.

I am very well and will srite again soon. I haven't fallen in love with any of the ladies yet, but like their Company exceedingly well. Please give me a short letter in haste - all these things I have written for I shall be paid for by the students and will remit the money or bring it home when I come.

I am in Affection
Your Son
Geo. M. Peek

PS.

The Cap must be of
Confederate Style - Love to
all -- G-

N.B. Please forward any letters that come to Richmond for me.

Moore Hospital

Manassas January 28 1862.

Dear Ma.

I reached this place on Sunday afternoon much later than I expected and found everything in great confusion - and any quantity of the thickest and stickiest mud to be found in the whole confederacy. I was directed to a tolerably nice looking house as the hotel - but on entering and enquiring ~~from~~ the landlord, was informed that I was in an hospital. After getting nearly swamped in the mud I finally reached the hotel a common frame shanty - all eating room below & all sleeping room above.

The next morning I went to the medical Director and he informed me it was not necessary to go on to Centerville to report to Gen. Johnson - as he was going on himself. He told me that I w^{as} in all probability be ordered to the 4th Alabama Regt. at Dumfries. that it was without any medical officer at all and I would stand a good chance for promotion. All that and the fact that the regiment is mainly from Florence and the surrounding country made me very desirous to be ordered to it. There was a full surgeon who reported for duty at the same time that I did and the next morning I found he had been ordered to the 4th Alabama and I to the 9th Georgia near

Cuteville. I joined the Medical Director a nice man
and very much disposed to satisfy every body possible
so when he found I did ^{not} much want to go to the field he
sent me down to this hospital to relieve an assistant
surgeon who did want to leave a regiment.

These hospitals here - or rather hospital are under the
charge of quite a young man and all the surgeons
and assistants are quite young, nice gentlemen
too - and I anticipate a very pleasant time indeed.
I shall have plenty to do ~~too~~ for at present I am in
charge of two wards full of sick - the worst sort of cases
of Typhoid fever and Typhoid Pneumonia. Every body
who comes here well enough to move is sent on to
some other place, so that all our patients are pretty
bad off - I entered upon duty to day - and I am
confident there are several men in my wards who
will be dead in 24 hours.

I am very nicely fixed - have a room well ciled with
a good stove in it - and have pressed into service a
bedstead mattress and plenty of blankets - from the
hospital stores - which the assistants take the
liberty of using -

When you send my things on - please to send me
a tin wash basin - a small pitcher, 9 tins, a
pair of sheets - a pillow & some two or 3 cases (small one)
and anything that will do for a commode, and
a small looking glass. Put them up in a nice
box, directed to me at "Moore Hospital, Manassas -
and send them by the Express - and I will get
them - Please write saying what day they will

be sent. If Dr. Morris should get into the notion
of changing with me I am all ready for him - we already
have one Surgeon here from Baltimore - the rest
besides myself - are chiefly Louisianaians.

My facilities for writing are not very good at
present so I'll just stop here -

I don't think I have quite enough money to do
me till I draw pay -

Love to all

Affectly.

Wm. H. T.

(William Hope Peek)
#10

N.B. please forward any letters that come to Richmond for me.

2 1/2 pp ink

Moore Hospital
Manassas January 28 1862.

Dear Ma

I reached this place on Sunday afternoon much later than I expected and found everything in great confusion - and any quantity of the thickest and stickiest mud to be found in the whole confederacy. I was directed to a tolerably nice looking house as the hotel - but on entering and enquiring for the landlord, was informed that I was in an hospital. After getting nearly swamped in the mud I finally reached the hotel a common frame shanty - all eating room below and all sleeping room above.

The next morning I went to the Medical Director and he informed me it was not necessary to go on to Centerville to report to Genl. Johnson - as he was going on himself. He told me that I u? in all probability - be ordered to the 4th Alabama Regt. at Dumfrees - that it was without any medical offices at all and I would stand a good chance for promotion. All that and the fact that the regiment is mainly from Florence and the surrounding country made me very desirous to be ordered to it. There was a full surgeon who reported for duty at the same time that I did and the next morning I found he had been ordered to the 4th Alabama and I to the 9th Georgia near Centerville. I found the Medical Director a nice man and very much disposed to satisfy everybody possible so when he found I did not much want to go to the field he sent me down to the hospital to relieve an assistant surgeon who did want to have a regiment.

These hospitals or rather hospital are under the charge quite a young man and all the surgeons and assistants are quite young nice gentlemen too - and I anticipate a very pleasant time indeed. I shall have plenty to do too for at present I am in charge of two wards full of sick - the worst sort of cases of Typhoid fever and Typhoid Pneumonia. Every body who comes here will enough to move is sent on to some other place, so that all our patients are pretty bad off. I entered upon duty today and I am confident there are several men in my ward who will be dead in 24 hours.

I am very nicely fixed - have a room well ceiled with a good stove in it and have pressed into service a bedstead mattress and plenty of blankets from the hospital stores which the assistants take the liberty of using.

When you send my things on please to send me a tin wash basin a small pitcher, glass, a pair of sheets - a pillow & some two or 3 cases (small one) and anything that will do for a counterpane, and a small looking glass. Put these up in a nice box, directed to me at "Moore Hospital, Manassas " and send these by the Express - and I will get them - please write saying what day they will be sent. If Dr. Morris should get into the notion of changing with me I am already for him we already have one Surgeon here from Baltimore - the rest besides myself - are chiefly Louisianians.

My facilities for writing are not very good at present so I'll just stop here -

I don't think I have quite enough money to do me till I draw pay.

Love to all
Affectionately W.H.P.

Moore Hospital
Maunabo Feb 5 1862.

Dear Pa,

I find I must have a small boy here
to wait on me - I can't well do without one -
and if you know of any one that will suit I'll hire
him and send him on to me - 10 or 12 by the month - say
about 5 or 6 per month. Write to me at once
so that I may hire one some where else if possible -
if you know of none. A smart active fellow even
if he were much smaller than Bob - would suit -
Write in reply to this on Friday - and if you know of
one that will suit, send him by Express Sunday -
If Bro Jimmy has sold the rifle send me half the money -
retaining the other half to help pay for my uniform
and other things I have ordered.

Send me the Dispatch for six months - They charge
10 cts a copy for it here.

I want some money any how if the rifle is not sold.

If I ever get the money for my horse in Little Rock
I think I'll buy another.

At present I have nothing in the world to do - waiting
for some of the other wards to be completed - The act. Surg: who was
home on sick furlough, has relieved me of the two I had at first -

Love to all

W.S.P.

7
Mr. Thomas Peck: Esq.
Richmond
Va



(William Hope Peek)

11

1 pg ink

Moore Hospital
Manassas Feby 5th 1862

Dear Pa,

I find I must have a small boy here to wait on me. I can't well do without one - and if you know of anyone who will suit hire him and send him on to me. Hire by the month - say about 5 or 6\$ per month. Write to me at once so that I may hire one somewhere else if possible - if you know of none. A small active fellow even if he were much smaller than Bob - would suit - Write in reply to this on Friday - and if you know of one that will suit , send him by Express Sunday. If Bro. Johnny has sold the rifle send me half the money retaining to help pay for my uniform and other things I have ordered.

Send me the Dispatch for Six months - they charge 10 cts a copy for it here.

I want some money any how if the rifle is not sold. If I ever get the money for my horse in L.R. I think I'll buy another.

At present I have nothing in the world to do - waiting for some of the other wards to be completed - and The Asst. Sugn. who was home on sick furlough, has relieved me of the two I had a first -

Love to all
W.H.P

(William Hope Peek)

12

Moore Hospital
Manassas, Feby 10 1862

Dear Sis

4 pg inks

Yours of the 7th inst has been received.-I came in - You need not s'ent any of the things. I will walk about here without ever having my boots cleaned. I'll worry my firends borrowing their books - I'll take things from the hospital stores to which I am not entitled - I'll sleep on the floor in my room while all the other gentlemen have their beds ec.

As for Pa or Ma - or you - or any other members of the family wanting anything - that shall never be while I have a cent in my pocket where with to relieve it. I am very willing to give up my pay to the support of the family. But how I am to get along with 10\$ only in my pocket for two [

cut out]

much for washing - so much to have my room cleaned up and so much for other incidentals - I can't well conceive.

It is very evident that I can mess by myself - and more evident that there are many usless extravagances in our mess as it is - Think of 40\$ per month for butter alone - and there we have the poorest sort of feed never anything like a pudding which the use of so much butter would suggest. What am I to do - Would you have me put my veto on the present management of the mess. I am a newcommer and it must be considered a favor that I was admitted to the mess. How would I get along if I were to cut loose from them - I am certianly lonesome enough already. I hope you all will take into consideration your letter ignorance of the ~~fact-that~~ circumstances which surrounded you me here. As for Uncle Jesse's remark about his being staisfied with a shwl for a bed while on the Peninsular - I'd like to ask him - if he were compelled to remain all night at his hospital if he would content himself with sleeping on the floor wrapped in his blanket . I am not in the field here - nor is it summer time nor am I surrounded by friends from my own acquaintance of town, situated precisely as I am.

However - as I am intimated , am not in jest, I am anxious to do everything I can for you all. Pa has no son who would sacrifice his own comfort for him more than I would. I am not disposed to quible at the fact [

CUT OUT]

He was compled to harness himself to death at the business - which he thought has passed from under his control.

I really do not need the sheets & pillows - or the bed spread - but I am not entitled to what I am now using and I do not know when they may be taken from me. All the others - except one - have their own bedding I believe - and that one intends to provide himself What in the world I do if I were ordered to the field. How would I get along with a pair of blankets. There is not a private who is not better provided - certainly not one brought up as I have been who has not a cot or a campbedstead & a bed sack filled with straw. But if I were to write for a camp cot you would all cry out extravagant - I am not, as you think, providing myself as lavishly as the other Surgeons here. Each one has his own horse and servant. I have none, nor do I want any - I'd like to ask Uncle Jesse, if were ordered to the field up here - if he wouldn't keep a horse & serv^{ant}. I don't know how long I'll stay here - or how soon I'll be ordered to the field. _____

(William Hope Peek)

12 pg 2

I hope you will not consider that I have written in a spirit of dissatisfaction - I am willing to put up with anything - and hope you all will not make yourselves in the least uneasy on my account. I regret I had a uniform made - for I can do without that better than anything else. There is only one here who has a uniform - I suppose there is nothing like dignity of position to preserve. It matters very little how I demean myself - 'Tis not worth while to show there country bumbksis who for are a large number of privates in our army that there is any difference between officer and soldier. I hope you won't quote Uncle Jesse to me any more - What did he say when I asked him what I needed & ought to get. Didn't he tell me many things which I have not the least idea of getting - and now when I ask the use of a pair of sheets & a bedspread which if I were home I'd require & wh. cause no outlay of money - he talks about he had at Ship Point.

I was very much surprised at the tone of your letter, but not displeased.

I hope Ma will consider I am old enough and have sufficient discretion now to do somethings with out first asking her permission. I know - as she would interpose, I spent a good some of money in my trip to L.R. but we all thought it best to run the risk. There was no certinity in my getting an appointment there - or by remaining in Richmond and the time for consideration was short. I was misled by Bro Thos he did it innocently however.

There is a bear possibility - of my coming down some night on the sick train and stay in Richmond there is no certainty - or even probability --

One of the assistants had a nice little supper the other night oystres - ham & turkey - and we had the Medical Director and Purveyor of the Army of the Potomic with us -

Our Surgeon in charge - is becoming extremely unpopular with the others. There will be a blow up soon in my opinion - They say he is not a gentlemen and lacks good breeding - He is very rough in his manner - especially to the employers & patients - but he is afraid to do anything of the kind to us. Besides they say he is utterly incompetent as a surgeon and Physician.

I have a chum now. Wm. Taylor, Va. who has just passed the board. A very nice man too. a real Virginia gentleman - Write Soon - Love to all

W.H.P.

Home Hospital

Manassas, Feb, 10 1862.

Dear Sir.

Your of the 7th inst. has been received - I care in. You need not send any of the things - I will walk about here without ever having my boots cleaned; I'll worry my friends ~~and~~ borrowing their books - I'll take things from the hospital stores to which I am not entitled - I'll sleep on the floor in my room while all the other gentlemen have their beds &c -

As for Pa or Ma - or you - or any other member of the family ever wanting anything - that shall never be while I have a cent in my pocket where with to relieve it. I am very willing to give up my pay to the support of the family. But how I am to get along with 10¢ only in my pocket for two

much for washing - so much to have my room cleaned up - and so much for other incidentals - I can't well conceive.

It is very evident that I can't mess by myself - and more evident that there are many useless extravagances in our mess as it is - Think of 40¢ per month for butter alone - and then we have the poorest sort of feed - never anything like a pudding which the word of so much butter would suggest.

What am I to do - would you have me put my veto on the present management of the mess. I am a new comer and it must be considered a favor that I was admitted to the mess. How would I get along if I were to cut loose from them - I am certainly lonesome enough already. I hope you all will take into consideration your utter ignorance of the ~~fact that~~ ^{me} circumstances which surround ~~you~~ ^{me} here. As for Uncle Jesse's remark about his being satisfied with a shawl for a bed while on the peninsula - I'd like to ask him - if he were compelled to remain all night at his hospital if he would content himself with sleeping on the floor wrapped in his blanket. I am not in the field here - nor is it summer time, nor am I surrounded by friends from my own acquaintance & town, situated precisely as I am.

However - as I have intimated, and not in jest, I am anxious to do everything I can for you all. Pa has no son ^{who} would sacrifice his own comfort for him - more than I ^{would}. I am not disposed to grieve at the fact

he was compelled to harass himself to death at the business - which he thought was passed from under his control.

I really do not need the sheets & pillow - or the bed spread - but I am not entitled to what I am now using and I do not know when they may be taken from me. All the others - except one - have their own bedding I believe - and that one intends to provide himself. What in the world would I do if I were ordered

to the field. How would I get along with a pair of blankets. There is not a private who is not better provided - certainly not one brought up as I have been - who has not a cot or a camp bedstead & bed sac^t filled with straw. But if I were to write for a camp cot you would all cry out extravagant - I am not, as you think, providing myself as lavishly as the other surgeons here. Each one has his own horse and servant. I have none, nor do I want any. I'd like to ask Uncle Jesse, if were ordered to the field up here - if he would not keep a horse & servant. I don't know how long I'll stay here - or how soon I'll be ordered to the field.

I hope you will not consider that I have written in a spirit of dissatisfaction - I am willing to put up with anything - and hope you all will not make yourselves in the least uneasy on my account. I regret I had a uniform made - for I can do without that better than anything else. There is only one here who has a uniform - I suppose there is nothing like dignity of position to preserve - It matters very little how I demean myself - It is not worth while to show these country bumpkins who form a large number of the privates in our army that there is any difference between officer and soldier. I hope you won't quote Uncle Jesse to me any more. What did he say when I asked him what I needed & ought to get. Did not he tell me many things which I had not the least idea of getting? and now when I ask the price of a pair of sheets & a bed spread - which if I were home I'd require & wh. came out of my money - he talks about what he had at Ship Point.

I was very much surprised at the tone of your letter, but not displeased.

I hope Ma will consider I am old enough - and have sufficient discretion now to do some things without first asking her permission. I know - as she would intupre, I spent a good sum of money in my trip to Little Rock - but we all thought it best to run the risk. There was ~~not~~ certainly in my getting an appointment there - or by remaining in Richmond and the time for consideration was short. I was misled by Bro. Thos. he did it innocently however.

There is a bare possibility of my coming down some night on the sick train and staying in Richmond. There is no certainty or even probability.

One of the assistants - had a nice little supper the other night of oysters - ham & turkey - and we had the Medical Director and Purveyor of the Army of the Potomac with us -

Our Surgeon in charge - is becoming extremely unpopular with the others. There will be a blow up soon in my opinion - They say he is not a gentleman and lacks good breeding - He is very rough in his manner - especially to the employees & patients - but he is afraid to do anything of the kind to us. Besides they say he is utterly incompetent as a Surgeon and Physician.

I have a chum now - W. Taylor, Jr. who has just passed the board. A very nice man too. A real Virginia gentle man -

Write soon - Love to all

W.H.P.

Dear Sir,

You letter is received
this morning. The letter is agreed
with the last receipt.

I want 3 gross of large size
buttons, with the angle and the
letter, as fancy a button as can
be made for \$1.00 for a gross.
A. W. C.

4 gross of the small size with
the letter - I would like to
have them made as much
like the Confederate buttons
as possible

I want a Confederate majors
cap made of gray cloth and
with 4 rows of velvet, the narrowest
size.

Send 4 stars - gold stars - they
will cost about 25^{cts} a piece.

Some velvet over an inch wide

— go on my part. And if
it goes on, I shall not
get me a support that for
the shoulder. I believe I have
strengthened all I want.

On my account we have spent
of the 1000 pounds I see such
as they do for the State.

I have not received any
money yet, but will get it
I suppose. I have more
work, but will try and get
some when I want it.

Yours affly
C. J.

So as soon as possible
you may —

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

[The page contains extremely faint and illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is mostly obscured by the high contrast and noise of the scan.]

(George Meridyth Peek)

Feb 1862

2 pg ink

(WRITTEN FROM FLORENCE ALA., PART OF LETTER, NO DATE)

My Dear Pa,

Your letter is received this morning. The letter enclosed was written last night.

I want 5 gross of large size buttons with the Eagle and letters, as fancy a button as can be made for 9\$ or 10\$ a gross.

F.W.C.

4 gross of the small size with the letters. I would like to have them made as much like the confederate buttons as possible.

I want a confederate majors cap made of gray cloth and with 4 rows of very the narrowest lace.

Send 4 stars of gold along - they will cost about 25ct a piece. Some velvet over a inch wide to go on my pants. And if does not cost too much get me a major strap for the shoulders.. I beleive I have specefied all I want.

You may send me four yards of the narrowest lace such as they put on the caps.

I have not received any money yet, but will get it, I suppose I have none, but will try and get some when I want some

Your Aff son;

G

Send as soon as possible by express-

Florence Ala.
Feb 13th 1862

Dr Pa,

Send me one gross of Composite
Buttons and one of small buttons - Since
the man has refused to make them for
what he said. I will see the Minister
about further orders.

The Yankees have reduced our
school very much, but we will never
suspend, for the endowment fund
will be forfeited if the College closes.

I mean the defeat of our arms at
ft. Henry and the progress of
the Yankees to the head of naviga-
tion on the Tennessee has injured
us.

I will am going out to drill a
Regiment of Militia today in the
Battalion drill. I am well and
will write soon to sis and give
all the news.

Your aff Son
G. M. Peck

(George Meridyth Peek)

#12

1 pg ink

Florence Ala
Feb 15th 1862

Dr. Pa,

Send me one gross of Confederate buttons and one of small buttons - Since the man has refused to make them for what he said - I will see the Trustees about further orders.

The Yankies have reduced one school very much, but we will never suspend, for the endowment fund will be forfeited, if the College closes.

I mean the defeat of our armies at Ft. Henry and the progress of the Yankies to the head of Nangations on the Tennessee has injured us.

I am going out to drill a regiment of Militia to day in the Battalin drill. I am well and will write soon to Sis and give all the news.

Your aff. Son

G M Peek

Then I will drill at the Col
Camp &c - and ride as fine
a horse and lead as glorious
a charge as they ever ^{they} said in
their dreams. I told you all,
as Parker would say, that I'd
be a major before the war
was over.

I suffered very much from
cold on yesterday, having to
ride 6 miles in the country and
then parade on a bleak field;
but as I never ~~take~~ cold unless
I sleep cold I am as well
as ever today.

I wish I could my Parker's
teacher. Ben ~~that~~ ~~you~~

I want the things I wrote
for as soon as possible you will
not have time to get them
I reckon. Give my love to
all and let me hear from
you soon - Yours &c

G. M.

St. Lawrence Ala.
Feb. 16th 1862.

My dear Sir,

I wrote to
Pa on yesterday for one gross of
~~each kind of buttons~~ ~~for~~
so I want a quantity because
I thought some might be left
on my hands; but a tailor in
town says he will give 2¹/₂
doz. for any Eagle buttons
the Confederate button is
here for 7¹/₂ set. That being
the case I will
be safe to send the
quantity I formerly wrote
for, 3 or 6 gross of the large
size & 3 in ft. of the
small size. Send me some
Confederate buttons, if not all.

I am very glad to hear
that the old Artillery is about to
be Squashed. I would recom-
-mend to Bro. Eddie to go where-
-ever he can do best, either in
the Cavalry, Infantry or Artillery.

If he can get an office in the
old Artillery by all means let
him stay in it. I am not
surprised at hearing that Col.
Smith expects to be a major for
things are conducted in it
presently. Every where else the
Capt. & Soldiers elect their
Officers & Captains in
of appointments them, and
he who can muster the strongest
friends, whether he be competent
or the choice of his soldiers
or not, he is placed in command
I am pleased to hear also of

my Pod's prospect of advancement.
And now, I reckon, you would
like to know how I am getting
along. On yesterday I went
to the Militia Muster and
instructed their Col. in maneu-
-vering his battalion. Snow had
fallen and it being very cold
for this climate, but few were on
the parade ground. I, therefore,
didn't have the opportunity
of spreading myself before the
people. They raised one volunteer
company and requested me to
lead them. Another company
is being raised in Florence
and that also has requested me
to drill them. I shall endeavor
- to work the matter so that
if a Regiment shall be formed
I may be elected Major of it.

(George Meridyth Peek)

#13

it pg link

Florence Ala.
Feb 16th 1862.

My dear Sis,

I wrote to Pa on yesterday for one gross of each kind of buttons I wrote for so small a quantity because I thought some might be left on my hands, but a taylor in town say's he will give 2½\$ a doz. for any Eagle buttons. The Confederate button is sold here for 7\$ a set. That being the case (missing) it would be safe to send me the quantity I formerly wrote for 5 or 6 gross of the large size and 3 or (??) gross of the small size. Send me some Confederate buttons, it not all.

I am very glad to hear that the old artillery is about to be squashed. I would recommend to brother Eddie to go wherever he can do best, Either in the cavalry, infantry or artillery. If he can get an officer in the old Art., then by all means, let him stay in it. I am not surprised at hearing that Capt Smith expects to be a Major for things are conducted in VA. apperently. Every where else the Capts & Soldiers Elect there Major & Capt but in VA the Governor appoints them, and he who can muster the strongest friends, whether he be competent or the choice of his soldiers or not, he is placed in Command. I am please to hear also of my Pod's prospect of advancement.

And now, I reckon , you would like to know how I am getting along. On Yesterday I went to the militia muster and instructed their Col in maneuvering his battalion. Snow had fallen and it being very cold for this climate, but few were on the parade ground. I there fore, didn't have the opportunity of spreading myself before the people. They raised one Volunteer Company and requested me to drill them. Another Company is being raised in Florence and that also bar requested me to drill them. I shall endeavor to work the matter so that if a regiment shall be formed I may be elected Major of it. Then I will smile at the Col. Cary & - and ride as fine a horse and lead as glorious a charge as they ever did in their dreams. I told you all, as Packee would say., that I'd be a Major before the war was over.

I suffered very much from cold on Yesterday, having to ride 6 miles in the country and then parade on a bleak field, but I never take cold unless I sleep cold I am as well as ever today.

I wish I carried my Hardee's tactics from Ben H???gins but I want the thing. I wrote for as soon as possible you will not have time to get them I reckon - Give my love to all and let me hear from you soon -

Yours &c
G M P

Moore Hospital

Mamers. Mar 2.

Dear Pa -

Please find herewith
enclosed one hundred & thirty
dollars which I desire you to
use as you think best for the
good of us all -

Please to send me two or 3
one & two dollar notes & halves if
you can get them.

I am quite well -

My day makes us stronger here &
I think the doctor at Mamers
will be satisfied in this part of
it. We will not fall back.

Affly.

W.T.P.

1 pg ink
(William Hope Peek)
#13

Moore Hospital
Manassas Mar 2

Dear Pa -

Please find herewith enclosed one hundred & thirty dollars - which I desire you to use as you think best for the good of us all.

Please to send me two or 3 one & two dollar notes and halves if you can get them.

I am quite well - Every day makes us stronger here & I think the disaster at Donelson will be retrived in this part of Va We will not fall back.

Affectionately
W. H. P.

9 - 949
81

Flourence March 5 1862

My dear Sir,

I received your letter last week announcing the mis-
-hap that had occurred to Pa. I was so thankful that it did not kill him, and was getting well that I hardly evince sorrow enough that it had happened at all. But I reckon it is "all for the best", and these accidents serve to prepare us for greater realities.

Since I last wrote I have changed my boarding home - Formerly, you know, I roomed in the College and eat at Prof. Rice's; now I live with Dr. Stewart, a very estimable gentleman and a doctor of the highest qualities, standing and education. He met me on the street and invited me

to come and live with him,
Secured to press it and
Consented. He has a son
only who is rather a wayward
boy and - any thing to throw
inducements around him.

His wife is a lady of beauty
and excellence. One of the
nicest ladies in Florence. I am
well situated there and the W^o
will not receive remuneration
for his kindness.

The people here are in a perfect
fever of excitement on account
of the probability that of the towns
being given over as untenable
ground by our forces. I really
expect again to be on the "Neutral
ground". That being the case I
reckon all will happen for my
advancement in military affairs.

On yesterday I was introduced
to a young man who left
here a Lieutenant in the army;

Nothing more than a Stripling;
pining &c. - and now a man
in every respect. Before a Sickly
Student now a real soldier -
fat, large and healthy.

And yet how should that not
be my case if I should suc-
-ceed in getting a fat office
in a regiment from Florence?

The chances of this, however,
are very poor yet. When
they brighten up I will write.

My lady friends have been
treating me very kindly. A
beauquet of the most exquisite
nature greeted me when I
arrived the other morning from
one of my drilling towns. It
came from the dimpled fingers
of sweet Miss Mollie England,
the liveliest girl in this town,
a lady of much good sense
and vast reading, smart as
a steel trap, keen as a brist, and

as bright as the morning star.
They say in town that Miss
Mollie Ragland is Prof. Peck's
sweet heart, but the people don't
know Prof. Peck's sweet heart yet.

And what more I don't think
he'll have me tel the war is over
any how. I find in Miss
Ragland, though, some of the most
interesting qualities I ever saw in
a young lady and by far the most
interesting lady in this town.

There are many things about
her though, which tend to
separate us so far as sweethearts
& wives &c are concerned.

About the buttons. If you have
not sent my box and not bought
the buttons, it is useless to send
them (buttons) except some small ones,
about a gross. ^{cut.} 14 Confederate buttons
I want for my own coat. no velvet.
2 Stars for the collar, about 12^{cts} apiece.
My Hardee's Tactics if you have it. A book
on Camp duties will be acceptable —
Love to all —

(George Meridyth Peek)

14

4 pg ink

Florence March 5th 1862

My dear Sis,

I received your letter last week announcing the misshap that had occurred to Pa. I was so thankful that it did not kill him, and was getting well that I hardly evidence sorrow enough that it had happened at all. But I reckon it is "all for the best" and these accidents serve to prepare us for graves realities.

Since I last wrote I have changed my board house - Formelly , you know. I roomed in the College and ~~at~~ at Prof. Rice; now I live with Dr. Stuart a very estimeable gentleman and a doctor of the highest qualites, standing and education. He met me on the street and invited me to come and live with him. Seemed to press it and I consented. He has a son only who is rather a way ward boy and - anything to throw enducement around him. His wife is a lady of beauty and excellence. One of the nicest ladies in Florence. I am well situated there and the Dr will not receive remuneration for his business.

The people here are in a perfect fever of excitement on account of the probability ~~that~~ of the towns being given over as unteneable ground by our forces. I really expect again to be on the "Netural ground". That being the case I reckon all will happen for my advancement in Military Affairs.

On yesterday I was introduced to a young man who left here a Lieutenant in the Army, nothing more than a strapling puny &c- and now a man in every respect. Before a sickly student now a real soldier - fat, large and healthy. And why should that not be my case if I should succeed in getting a fat office in a regiment from Florence? The chances of this, however, are very poor yet, when they brighten up I will write.

My lady friends have been treating me very kindly. A bouquet of the most exquisite Nature greated me when I arrived the other morning from one of my drilling tours. It came from the dimpled fingers of sweet Miss Mollie Ragland the lovelist girl in this town, a lady of much good sense and Vast reading, smart as a steel trap, Keen as a bria, and as bright as the morning star. They say in town that Miss Mollie Ragland is Prof. Peels sweetheart, but the people don't know Prof. Peek's sweetheart yet. And whats more I dont think he'll have one til the war is over any how. I find in Miss Ragland, though, some of the most instering qualities I ever saw in a young lady and by far the most instering lady in this town.

There are many things about her though which tend to separate us so far as sweetheart & wives &c- are conserned -

About the buttons If you have not sent my box and not bought the buttons, it is useless to send them (buttons) except some small ones about a gross or less. 14 Confederate buttons I want for my own coat, no velvet. 2 stars for the collar about 12 cts apeice.

My Hardees tactics if you have it. A book on camp duties will be acceptable-
Love to all-

G.

H. W. University
March 15th 1862

My dear Sis,

I reckon you are tired of waiting for a letter from me by this time. Well I have been so much engaged, about other matters, and especially upon the subject of the evacuation of Florence as we did Hampton, on account of the so near approach of the enemy, that I have felt little like writing.

The state of affairs here is about this: The army under Genl. Johnston have fallen back to Decatur, a little village on the south side of the Tennessee river.

Troops are being concentrated all along on the other side of the river, evidently leaving this side for the manning parties of the enemy when they shall advance on our lines, which they will be compelled to do as our General, however much brilliant achievements on Northern soil have been dreamed of, will never again advance upon the enemy this side of the Tennessee, - at least for many months and, perhaps, years. The enemy have

invaded Mississippi from the Tennessee to the distance of about 15 miles, but have just now retired, for caused entirely unknown to us they are about 15000 strong; and to day we hear from a gentleman just from Savannah a little town about 50 miles down the river, that he counted one hundred and five transports there, besides gun-boats. With those boats they have the power of throwing forty thousand men upon any point on the river in one night; and now too the river is 10 feet higher than it has been for many days - indeed it is higher now than it ever has been within the recollection of some of the old men. The tremendous storm we have had for the last few days has even caused the river to overflow its banks. The shoals down the river are the only protection we have against the advance of the gunboats; but now you see the water is some 15 or 20 feet deep there, where at low water in the dry season vessels of two feet draught can't come over. Men I think is pretty certain that we are left a prey to the enemy; yet I am inclined to think and do predict that right here among the hills of

Sandradale County a great battle will be fought; for if Johnston wants to draw the enemy into mountain fastnesses &c and is retiring into Alabama, the hills about here, the very spurs of the Cumberland, are the very things for him. When the river is dry, you know, (and it is always low in the summer) they enemy could not come upon his rear with their boats.

I received a letter from brother Tho. to day, in which he says he is acting as Adj. General of Arkansas, and expects to get a commission in Van Dorn's Army as Quarter Master, Adv. with the rank of Captain. He also said that he had gone off to raise a regiment of volunteers but Gov. Reelfoot called out the militia and knocked his plans into a cocked hat.

He says that General Van Dorn has an army of 40000, and will be in the neighbour hood or possession of St. Louis in a short time - The glorious news from the west is true I believe; from the positions of the enemy both at New Madrid and at Boston Mountain are cut off.

They will either have to surrender
of retreat with heavy loss and
suffering. My prospects for the
Army to Ma's gratification, I reckon, are
very poor at this time, as a draft is
being made about this country.

And in 20 days after that is
done the whole Militia will be
called out.

The college is almost gone, not
more than 10 students remaining, 8 only,
indeed. But we have some 30 or
40 little boys that we teach just
to keep the thing going.

And my part in that Depart-
ment is only to learn them
military tactics and writing.

I have no sweetheart yet,
but am trying to find one of the
right stamp. Miss Ragland is
a nice and good young lady to
whom you may send your kindest
regards &c. - Your aff bro. Geovie

Save money and say
about it.

They will either have to surrender
of retreat with heavy loss and
suffering. My prospects for the
Army to Ma's gratification, I reckon, are
very poor at this time, as a draft is
being made about this country.

And in 20 days after that is
done the whole Militia will be
called out.

The college is almost gone, not
more than 10 students remaining, 8 only,
indeed. But we have some 30 or
40 little boys that we teach just
to keep the thing going.

And my part in that Depart-
ment is only to learn them
military tactics and writing.

I have no sweetheart yet,
but am trying to find one of the
right stamp. Miss Ragland is
a nice and good young lady to
whom you may send your kindest
regards &c. - Your aff bro. Geovie

Spence money and see
about it

(George Meridyth Peek)

15

4 pg ink

F. W. University
March 12th 1862

My dear Sis.

I reckon you are tired of waiting for a letter from me by this time. Well I have been so much engaged about other matters, and especially upon the subject of the evacuation of Florence as we did Hampton, on account of the near approach of the enemy, that I have felt little like writting.

The state of affairs here is about this. The Army under Genl. Johnston have fallen back to Decatur, a little village on the South of the Tennessee river. Troops are being concentrated all along on the other side for the marauding parties of the enemy when they shall advance on our line, which they will be compelled to do as our Generals, however much brilliant achievements on Northern soil. have been dreamed of, will never again advance upon the enemy. this side of the Tennessee - at least for many months and, prehaps, years. The enemy have invaded Mississippi from the Tennessee to the distance of about 15 miles, but have just now retired, for causes entirely unknown to us. They are about 15000 strong, and to day we hear from a gentleman just from Savannah a little town about 50 miles down the river that he counted one hundred and five transports there besides gun-boats. With these boats they have the power of throwing fourty thousand men upon any point on the river in one night, and now too the river 10 feet higher than it has been for many days-indeed it is higher now than it ever has been within the recollection of some of the old men. The tremendous storm we have had for the last few days has even caused the river to over flow it banks. The shoals down the river are the only protection we have against the advance of the gunboats, but now you see the water is some 15 or 20 feet draugh can't come over. Then I think is pretty certain that we are left a prey to the enemy. Yet I am inclined to think and to predict that night here along the hills of Saudodale County a great battle will be fought, for if Johnson wants to draw the enemy into Mountain fastnesses &C and is retiring into Alabama, the hills about here, the very spurs of the Cumberland, are the very things for him. When the river is dry, You know. (and it is always low in the summer) the enemy could not come upon upon his rear with their boats.

I received a letter from brother Tho. to day, in which he says he is acting a Adj. General of Arkansas, and expects to get a Commission in Van Dorn's Army as quarter Master, Ass. With the rank of Captain. He also said that he had gone off to raise a regiment of Volunteers but Gov. Rector called out the militia and knocked his plans into a cocked hat.

He says that General Van Dorn has a army of 40 000, and will be in the neighbour hood or posession of St Louis in a short time - The glorious news from the west is true I believe for the position of the enemy butte at New Madrid and at Boston Mountian are critical. They will either have to surrender or retreat with heavy loss and suffering. My prospects for the army to Ma's gratification, I reckon, are very poor at this time , as a draft being made about this country. And in 20 days after that is done the whole Militia will be called out.

The College is almost gone, not more than 10 students remaining 8 only, indeed . But we have some 30 or 40 little boys that we teach just to keep things going. And my part in that Department is only to learn them military tactics and writing

I have no sweet heart yet, but am trying to find one of the right stamp. Miss Ragland is a nice any good young lady to whom you may send your kindest regards &c.

Your Aff. Bro
Georgie

I have money and all I
want
G.

Non-suspicious
Today's situation

... guide there is no
... about no parties to be
... has a ...
... fight.

I may very probably be out
to the field afterwards or at that
time and if I am shall want
a ... camp ... of some
kind. I shall write if I do - and
would like you to pick me out
a good one. I shall also want
a bed sack & some clothing

I shall of course
write again if I should want
them. All well -

Yours
W.H.P.

Did you get the money I sent?

(William Hope Peek)

#14

1 pg ink

Moore Hospital
Friday afternoon

Dear Pa -

I find there is no doubt about our falling back from here & that too
without a fight.

I may very probably be ordered to the field afterwards or about that
time and if I am shall want a cot or camp bedstead of some kind. I shall
write if I do - and would like you to pick me out a good one I shall also
want a bed sack and more covering.

I shall of course write again if I should want them. All well -

Yours ec
W. H. P.

Did you get the money?

Extract

Adj. Qrs. Med. Director's Office
Gordonsville, Virginia

March 23d. 1862.

Special Orders }
600 155 }

x

x

x

x

II Assistant Surgeon H. H. Peck, P.S.G.S.
is relieved from duty upon the Board of Examination at this
place, and is assigned temporarily to the General Hospital
at Orange C. H.. He will report, without delay, to Sur-
geon H. D. Taliaferro, P.A.S. in charge thereof, for duty.

By Command of Gen. Johnston.

(signed)

Thos. H. Williams

Medical Director &c.

(William Hope Peek)

15

Extract

1 pg emb

Hd. Qrs. Med. Director's Office
Gordonsville, Virginia
March 23d 1862

Special Orders]
No 155]

x

x

x

x

II Assistant Surgeon W.H. Peek, P.A.C.S.

Is relieved from duty upon the Board of Examanation at this place, and is assigned temporarily to the General Hospital at Orange C.H. He will report, without delay, to Surgeon H.D. Taliaferro, P.A.C.S. in charge there of, for duty.

By Command of
(signed)

Gen. Johnson.
Thos. H. Williams
Medical Director C.S.A.

Orange C. H.

March 26. at night.

Dear Sir.

After a great deal of inconvenience and some little suffering. have at last completely gotten well, and am now very nicely fixed. At present I am in a nice room all to myself, have a fire to go to bed by and dress by in the morning, and thus the eating is very nice and well & cleanly cooked. The lady of the house is a very nice pretty woman and her husband a fine jovial good natured fellow. He can't join the army on account of rheumatism. I found out the place by the most accident. When I came here whether the Surgeon or assistant offered in the least to assist me in finding quarters, so after having lost my dinner I set out alone and the first house I came to was this - I asked for board, and was referred by the lady to her husband. They finally agreed to take me, after asking if I could put up with a small room & other inconveniences

but I have not yet met with any. I cer-
tainly have been a most hearty eater and
for the last two or three days have been
trying to make up for lost times.

My duties here are not very pleasant however.

Lt. Tanner says 'tis not practicing medicine
but the commissions & forwarding business I
am engaged in - I think it is more like
the Post Office business - for we send patients
to Gordonsville where like letters from a distrib-
uting office they are sent on to various desti-
nations - All this getting them on the cars pro-
cessing transportation, and making out lists
of sick interferes very much with the care of
those we keep in the Hospital for permanent
treatment. There are some very sick men
among them too - when I came here there
were two men in a dying condition. They are
now among those that were - you know.

This is a very pretty village and more
plentifully supplied with churches than
any place its size I ever saw. It has little
over half as many people as Hampton did
and yet has four very neat & spacious churches.
There are too some quite pretty girls here

But the army being in its immediate
vicinity, has spoiled nearly all its beauty. The
streets have been so cut up by army waggons
that the mud has become as intolerable as at
Manassas.

When Dr. Williams ordered me here
the order said it was only temporary. In fact
the Hospital here is only a temporary affair;
but until I shall be nicely fixed in some
Hospital I shall be always trembling and
quaking for fear he may order me to the
field --

You have heard of General Jackson's repul-
se at Winchester - I hardly know whether it
has been best for him to fight with such a
result or retreat without fighting at all. Genl.
Johnston seems determined he shall not
be whipped again - for he has ordered a whole
Division of Sixteen regiments (Genl. R. Jones)
to march to his assistance. Some have
orders to leave to night - among them two
Lieutenants of the Ky Regt. who took supper
here. - I know of nothing interesting -
write soon - Love to all -
affectly
W. S. P.

(William Hope Peek)

16

3 pp. ink

Orange C.H.

March 26 at night

Dear Sis

After a great deal of inconvenience and some little suffering I have at last completely gotten well, and am now very nicely fixed. At present I am in a nice room all to myself, I have a fire to go to bed by and dress by in the morning, and there the eating is very nice and well & cleanly cooked. The lady of the house is a very nice pretty woman and her husband a fine jovial good natured fellow. He can't join the army on account of matism I found out the place by the meearest accident - When I came here Williams the Surgeon or assistant offered in the least to assist me in finding quarters, so after having lost my dinner I set out alone and the first house I came to was this. I asked for board and was referred by the lady to her husband. They finally agreed to take me, after asking if I could put up with a small room & other inconveniences but I have not yet met with them. I truly have been a most hardy eater and for the last two or three days have been trying to make up for lost time.

My duties here are not very pleasant however Dr. Tanner says 'tis not practising medicine but the commission & forwarding business I am engaged in. I think it is more like the Post Office business for we send patients to Gordonsville where like letters from a distributing office they are sent on to various destinations. All this getting them on the cars - procuring transportation, and making out lists of sick interferes very much with the care with those we keep in the Hospital for permant treatment. There are some very sick men among them too - When I came here there were two men in a dying condition - They are now among those that were - qui fuera .

This is a very pretty village and more plentifully supplied with churches than any place its size I ever saw. I has little over half people as Hampton did and yet has four very neat & spacious churches. There are too some quite pretty girls here

But the army being its immediately vicinity has spoiled nearly all its beauty. The streets have been so cut army waggons that the need has become intolerable as at Manassas.

When Dr. Williams ordered me here the order said it was only temporary In fact the Hospital here is only a temporary affair; but until I shall be nicely fixed in some Hospital I shall be always trembling and quaking for fear he may order me to the field -

You have heard General Jackson's repell at Winchester. I hardly know wheter it has been best for him to fight with such a result or retreat without fighting at all. Genl. Johnson seems to determined shan't be whipped again - for he has ordered awhile Division of Sixteen regiments (Gen. D.R. Jones) to march his assistants - Some have orders to leave at night among them live Lieutenant of the Ky Regt. who took supper here. I know of nothing interesting.

Write soon Love to all
Affectionatley
W. H. P.

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

1
and little Jesse, and your-
self are all in Richmond -
and living comfortably -
thus will I think, til my
dreamy sleep shall be
broken, perhaps, by the an-
nouncement of unwelcome
tidings. I often think of
you when the day is gone,
and twilight compells me
to close my book, and the
sound of the bell has not
yet invited us to supper -
just then I think of the
only sister I have in the
world. I have not forgot
you, sis. You may have

thought I cared but little for you - But then I was with you and was satisfied. When I am asked, "if I have a sister?" I tell them, Yes. And the most careless observer must notice an anxiety in my countenance which I cannot hide. I have become attached to several young ladies in this place; and, when the Yankees first came here I was anxious for their safety. How much deeper, therefore, must have been my feelings when I would hear rumor after rumor that Richmond was being bombarded & they were

fighting in the streets, etc - But I know I should not have contained myself; if I had believed such rumors.

I am in fine spirits, sis, and would not have you to think I am either moody or despondent. I do not suffer ^{bodily} personally at all - I have a plenty. But, of course, in these times every one has more or less of mental suffering. Very frequently this question presents itself and gives me perhaps more mental agony than any thing else: Shall I remain at home

4
pursuing the daily avocations
of peace, when my Country
calls for every man that
is able to go, between 18. & 30.
And shall I stay when all
are going? I am left nearly
alone now. The companions
that I have frequently
written of are all gone -

But now, Sis, I'm going to
take that philosophically
too; and I don't know
how it will comport with
your patriotic spirit.

I argue thus: I am absolu-
ly needed at the College -
I am therefore doing more good
in the College where my presence
is needed, than I can do in
the army as an individual
man. For I conclude that, if

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

[ca Mar 1862]

(George Meridyth Peek)

429 ink

(4 PAGES OF A LETTER OF GEORGE PEEK _ WRITTEN FROM FLORENCE ALA. - WHEN OCCUPIED BY YANKEE SOLDIERS)

and little Jesse, on yourself are all in Richmond - and living comfortable - thus will I think; til my dreamy sleep shall be broken, perhaps, by the announcement of unwelcome tidings. I often think of you when the day is gone, and twilight compells me to close my book, and the sound of the bell has not yet invitted us to supper - just then I think of the only sister I have in the world. I have not forgot you Sis, you may have thought I cared but little for you - But then I was with you and was satisfied. When I am asked "if I have a sister?" I tell them, yes. And the most careless observer must notice an anxiety in my countenance which I can not hide. I have become attached to several young ladies in this place; and, when the Yankees first came here. I was anxious for their safety. How much deeper, therefore, must have been my feelings when I would hear rumors after rumors that Richmond was being bombarded - they were fighting in the streets, ect - But I know I should not have contained myself; if I had beleived such rumors.

I am in fine spirts, Sis and would not have you to think I am either moody of disconsolated. I do not suffer bodily at all - I have a plenty. But, of course, in these times every one has more or less of mental suffering presents itself and gives me perhaps more mental agony than any thing else.

Shall I remain at home persuing the daily avocation of peace, when my country calls for Everyman that is able to go, between 18 & 35? And shall I stay when all are going? I am left nearly alone now. The companions that I have frequently written are all gone - But now, Sis I'm going to take that phulosophically too, and I dont know how it will comport with your patriotic spirt.

I argue items; I am absoluted by needed at the college - I am therefore doing more good in the College where my presence is needed as an individual man. For I conclude that if

(NO ENDING OF LETTER)

April 1st

Dearest etc.

The letter which you wrote me soon after you went to Richmond. was very highly appreciated in so you may say. why have you not answered it. ere, this, I, both, excuse, and condemn myself for this delinquency, but I can say with truth. that I have loved you enough to have written, very often and am satisfied that your feelings to me are the same. We have felt exceedingly anxious to hear from you all. ever since your dear Father had his fall from the buggy. do write to us very soon and let us know what you all think of the times. where are your dear brothers at this time, and what are they doing, also your Uncle Jessie, is dear Mally with you. Tell me all about your dear Mother if she is well. and how she likes the country at present. if she gets in to any of the evening prayer meetings. I am often so

Write all the children for me. You appreciate Cousin Martha.

You visit the city. please tell us thro.
all about you. I am sure Pigo. if her
spirits are as good as ever. we are inclined
to think her as yet sanguine of our success.
we are very anxious to know what
Jonnie will do. we fear that he is unexpect-
antly circumstanced. relative to his
business arrangements. since the militia
have been called to the field. I have ask-
ed you a number of questions but not
half so many as I would like to ~~propose~~
ask if I could see you. Tell me how your
cousin Mary Ann and Liz are. do you
ever see Mr. Cooper. or Mrs Meyers. you
dont know how very glad we would
be to hear from any of our people. have
you made many pleasant acquaintances.
and be sure to tell us how many nice
beaus you have caught in hand about
the city. and how was the one which you
left on the peninsula; we live at a
very retired place. but a very nice

neighborhood it is. the people are
kind and intelligent. Mr. Hankins our
nearest neighbor is a relative of Molly
they are very kind. Mr. Clark preaches
for us occasionally. he enjoys excellent
health ask Liz what she would give to
see him; I have nearly piled up my let-
ter with out telling you how we
amuse our selves. we sometimes get
a news paper. and you would have to
see the eager ness with which it is read
to judge of its value. allow me just
hear to say that we were very much grati-
fied to see the complimentary ~~manuscript~~
which ~~she~~ were paid to Georgie. I hope that
he escaped the yankees when they invaded that
place. well now for the amusements. patch
and darn & darn & patch. Liz & I are
employed most of our time in this. it
suits my indolent nature quite well.
we have quite a large garden. a good
many floweres. an room. enough to sow

peas, to plant potatoes, and a variety
of other garden vegetables, these amuse-
ments occupy brother Richard & Betie
Pattie & Kinch. after they get through
with these lessons, it will please you
to hear that we have over thirty young
chickens already. ask Pig if she can
bear that. Brother Richard is going
very soon to plant sweet potatoes.
your Pa. will be pleased to hear that
he expects tea to make some oats,
by letting the land be tilled on there,
but all this don't make a mends for
being a way from Wampton. Sue says
she gets hungry for Wampton. tell us
how you all feel a heart getting back.
Do you ever write to dear Sarah. write
to her my dear. They do not expect to leave
there. I, how we are scattered. all join
me in sending a great deal of love to
you & every member of the family. you don't
know how glad we would be to hear from

(Maria S. Peek)

5

LETTER WRITTEN TO SISSY FROM COUSIN MARTHA.

4 pg ink

April 7th

[1862]

Dearest Sis.

The letter which you wrote me soon after you went to Richmond was very highly appreciated, if so you may say, Why have you not answered it, ere, this, I both encuse, and condem my self for this, delinquency but I can say with truth that I have loved you enough to have written very often and am satisfied that your feelings to me are the same. We have felt exceedingly anxious to hear from you all, ever since your dear Father had the fall from the bugga. Do write to us very soon, and let us know what you all think of the times, and where are you dear brothers at this time, and what-ere they doing, also your Uncle Jessie, is dear Molly with you. Tell me all about your dear Mother is she is well, and how she likes the Country at present, if she gets in to any of the evening prayer meetings, how often do you visit the city, please tell us also, all about your dear Aunt Pigon. We are inclined to think her as yet sanguine of our recp. we are very anxious to know what Jonnie will do. We feel that he is unplesantly circumstances relative to his business arrainments since the Militia has been called into the field. I have asked you a number of questions but not half as many as I would like to ask if I could see you. Tell me how your Cousin Mary Ann and Liz are, do you ever see Mr. Cooper or Mrs Meyers. You dont know how very glad we want to hear from any of our people, have you made many acquaintances, and be sure to tell us how many nice beaus, you have caught in and about the city, and how was the peninsula, We live at a very retired place, but a very nice neighbour hood it is, the people are kind and inteligent. Mr Haskings, our nearest neighbor is a relative of Molly, they are all very kind. Mr Clark preaches for us occasionally, he enjoyes excelent health ask Liz. what she would give to see him, I have nearly filled up my letter with out telling you how we amuse our selves. We sometimes get a news paper. And you would have to see the eagerness with which it is read to judge its value. Allow me just to say that we were very much pacitifed to see the compliments which were paid to Georgie. I hope that he excaped the Yankies when they invaded that place, now for the amusements. Patch and darn & darn & patch. Liz & I are employed most of the time at this, it suits my inralem nature quite well. We have quite a large garden, a good many flowers and room enough to sow peas, to plant patotoes and a variety of other garden vegetables there amusements, occurry. brother Richard & Bettie Pattie & Riuthy after they get through with there lessons. It will please you to hear that we have over thirty young chickings. Already. ask Pig. if she can beat that. Brother Richard is going very soon to plant sweet patotoes. Your Pa will be pleased to hear that he expects too make some oats by letting the land be tended on shares, but all this dont make a mends for being a way from Hampton. Luc says she gets hungry for Hampton, tell us how you all feel about getting back. Did you ever write to dear Sarah, write to her my dear. They do not expect to leave there O, how we are scattered, all Join me in sending a great deal of love to you & every member of the family, you dont know how glad we would be to hear from you all, kiss all the children for me you affectionate Cousin

Martha

York Town, Wednesday, ¹⁸⁶²
1 1/2 o'clock, P.M., Apr 9th

Lizzie,

Your very welcome letter of the 4th inst, came to hand last night, with those sweet little violets, indeed I was happy to receive such a nice present, they shall be cherished with sacred regard as long as I live, No doubt you have heard of the state of affairs in, and around York before now, the enemy are encamped within 1 1/2 miles of our encampment constantly throwing shot and shell, their skirmishes are very impudent, sometimes coming within a few hundred yards of our embankment.

we ~~have~~ ^{been} nearly ~~all~~ ^{every} night
~~since~~ they made their appear-
ance, firing continued of ~~one~~
on, all through the night
from both sides, with small
arms and occasionally
with cannon, very little -
damage has been done on
our side. The fleet which
made its appearance is
very small, consisting of Schoon-
ers and two or three Steamers.
The mails are very irregular
and very often none at all.
I will write as often as I get
a chance to send them. You
will please write as often as
convenient. My best love to
you Ma. Mrs. Pigeon and all
the rest of the family, Good bye,
Excuse this short letter

Reinforcements are all
the time coming in,

Yours &c
D. H. Marrow

(LETTER OF DANIEL G. MORROW TO (SISSY) MARIA S. PEEK)

2/4 pg ink

York Town, Wednesday
1½ 0 clock PM Apl 9th 1862.

Sissie,

Your very welcome letter of the 4th inst. Came to hand last night, with those sweet little violets, indeed I was happy to receive such a nice present; they shall be cherished with sacred regards as long as I live, No doubt you have heard of the State of affairs in and around York before now. The enemy are encamped within 1½ miles of our encampment constantly throwing shot and shell. Their skirmishers are very impotent, some times coming within a few hundred yards of our embankment. We have been up nearly every night since they made their appearance, firing continues off and on, all through the night from both sides, with small arms occasionally with cannon, very little damage has been done on our side. The fleet which made its appearance is very small Consisting of Schooners and two or three Steamers. The mails are very irregular and very often none at all. I will write as often as I get a chance to send them, You will please write as often as convenient. My best love to Your Ma, Mis Pigeon and all the rest of the family, Good bye

Yours Afe
DG. Morrow.

Excuse this short letter.

Reinforcements are all the time coming in.

Orange Ct.

April 15.

Dear Sis

Just received your letter of 9th. I am glad Bro. H. is in Richmond and he has an appointment. I am fairly do intend to try to get down - and think I can get a furlough for 5 days.

The Surgeon in charge is a good nice man & I think will accommodate me. —

Our sick here has dwindled down to a small number & hence 2 of our assistants have been ordered away - I suppose down in the Peninsular.

We have yet about 12000 men on this line - more than

The Yankees have - and con-
tinue to take a few prisoners
occasionally - Nearly all the
other troops under Genl. Johnson
have gone to the Peninsular.

I think we will have a
great battle down there in
2 or 3 weeks but not soon
and then we will whip them.

I can't get any pay up
here and wrote for 20th some
days back but have not yet
received it - if I get to Richmond
however I can draw my
pay and commutation there.

all well except patients.

in haste

W.H.P.

(William Hope Peek)
16B

Orange C.H.
April 15

2 pg ink

Dear Sis

Just received your letter of the 9th. I am glad Bro Thos. is in Richmond and (missing) has an appointment. He certianly do intend to try to get down and I think I can get a furlough for 5 days. The Surgeon in charge is a good nice man & I think accomodate me. -

Our sick here has dwindled down to a several number & hence 2 of our assistants have been ordered away - I suppose down in the Penninsular

We have yet about 12000 men on this line - more then the Yankess have - and came twice to take a few prisoners occasionally - nearly all the other troops under Genl. Johnson have gone to the Penninsular. I think we will have (missing) great battle down there in about 2 or 3 weeks but not soon (missing) and there we will whip them.

I can't get any pay up here and wrote for 20\$ some days back but have not yet received it - if I get to Richmond however I can draw my pay and consuatation there. All well except patients.

in haste
W. H. P.

P.S. Amanda Anonstead is teaching in a female college in this place and is very much liked.

Wassenton, April 21st

Dear Lizzie

I have been intending to write to you or your ^{Mba} every week for the last two or three months, but have been so anxious and unsettled that I have done nothing scarcely, and my work has accumulated so that I have not had the time to write to any one except Mr Hope. I judged from a letter he received from you sometime ago that your Mba never got a letter he wrote immediately after your dear Aunt's death; I intended writing to tell her the particulars knowing how anxious she would be to learn them, but the children were taken with the measles a few days after and that prevented me; she was taken the third of January extremely ill from the first I sent for the D^r immediately he said unless there was a change for the better she would not live through the day. we telegraphed for

Mr. Hope and as soon as he got here he said he would write for your Ma but the Dr^r gave so little hope of her living through each day that he gave up the idea, although she lived ten days, her disease was pneumonia in both lungs the physician said it was a most violent case and more strongly resisted than any case he ever saw, two days before her death the disease took a turn and she was paralysed in one side and water accumulated on the brain those two days she was totally unconscious, did not speak or know any one. it was very distressing, she was anxious to die her sufferings were so great she spoke very affectionately of ^{me} you and Jemie during her sickness; everybody was very attentive and kind particularly a young lady staying in the house, niece of the gentleman with whom we are boarding, she scarcely left her, was as attentive as if she had been her own daughter, but I did miss your good kind Mother so much for I was in bed with a bad sore throat and fever and Julia confined, Mr^s Pembroke Jones was very kind stayed day and night with her. Mr Hope was the first

shock better than I expected, but it affected him after he left us more keenly he looked wretchedly for a month or two afterwards, he has not long gotten over an attack of the mumps took cold and made him quite sick. Jennie and little Annie are very fat and well now, Annie walks all about and is much stronger than Jennie ever was, her eyes are dark grey or hazel she will be prettier than Jennie, they have a great deal of milk. Our physician is a man of considerable reputation very kind to us, has taken a great liking to Mr Hope, the only objection is that he never has had any children and is not at all fond of them, and I am afraid of troubling him when mine are sick as he cant understand my anxiety, I told him one day I wished he had four or five, he said it was a cruel wish.

Tell Jemie I hope to be near enough to him to trouble him again, if I am to have sickness in my family, I used to miss him last summer when Jennie was so sick. I have cried so much since this was begun that I wonder I am not

blind, and notwithstanding I have been through
so much anxiety, fatigue and still nurse the baby
a great deal, I am in very good health and looking
very well. This place seems to agree with me very
well, I like it ~~as much~~ as I could any place away
from home, there are some things that remind me
of dear old Hampton. I think your Ma would
like it. The family with whom we are boarding are very
kind and really seems attached to me, I go out very
little, could have made a large number of acquaintances
but I did not feel like visiting, almost everybody in
town called to see us when we first came and I did
not return the visits until the week before Christmas.
Mrs. His and Addington are boarding in this house but
will go back to Rich-mond after the battle on the Pen-
insular if it ~~is decided in our favor~~ we gain the
victory they send their love and say you must write
and tell them all the particulars of your family.
I feel so anxious about the battle that I scarcely sit
still long enough to write. I heard a sermon yesterday
from a Presbyterian minister boarding with us, on the
providences of God which was very comforting these times.
All the winter I was hoping that in the Spring I should
be able to pay a visit to Uncle Tom Lowry's family in
Petersburg, and from there to Rich-mond to see you all
but I had to give it all up everything is so unsettled, and
then Julia has a young baby about three months old and
I could not dog that about with me, she has not im-
proved at all as long as we. I kept her thinking Nannie
might require a wet nurse this summer when she was
getting her teeth, but she has ~~come~~ without any trouble
and I do not intend to let Julia nurse her unless
she gets very sick she is getting along very well with me
and the bottle. I am really afraid I shall not
be able to read this, (you must feel shy) but best part
of the time I have been thinking that I was writing to you
Ma. Give my love to every member of the family without
one exception and please write soon, if I can't see you
all do let me hear from you. Affectionately your cousin Annie

P.S. Amanda Armstead is teaching in a female college in this place and is very much liked.

4pg ink

Warrenton, April 21st [1862?]

Dear Sisie

I have been intending to write you or your Ma every week for the last two or three months, but have been so anxious and unsettled that I have done nothing scarcely, and my work has accumulated so that I have not had the time to write to any one except Mr. Hope. I judged from a letter he received from you sometime ago that your Ma never got a letter he wrote immediately after your Aunts death; I intended writing to tell her the particulars knowing how anxious she would be to learn them, but the children were taken with the measles a few days after and that prevented me; she was taken the third of January extremely ill from the first. I sent for the D' immediately he said unless there was a change for the better she would not live through the day, we telegraphed for Mr. Hope and as soon as he got here he said he would write for your Ma but the Dr gave so little hope of her living through each day that he gave up the idea, although she lived ten days, her disease was pneumonia in both lungs the physician said it was a most violent case, and more strongly resisted than any case he ever saw, two days before her death the disease took a turn and she was paralysed in one side and water accumulated on the brain those two days she was totally unconseious, did not speak or know any one it was very distressing, she was anxious to die her sufferings were so great she spoke very affectionately of your Ma and Jesie during her sickness; everybody was very attentive and kind particularly a young lady staying in the house, niece of the gentleman with whom we are boarding, she scarcely left her, was attentive as if she had been her own daughter, but I did miss your good kind mother so much for I was in bed with a bad sore throat and fever and Julia confined, Mrs Pembroke Jones was very kind and stayed day and night with her Mr Hope bore the first shock better than I expected, but it affected him after he left us more keenly he looked wretchedly for a month or two afterwards, he has not long gotten over an attack of the mumps took cold and made him quite sick. Jennie and little Nannie are very fat and well now, Nannie walks all about and is much stronger than Jennie ever was, her eyes are dark grey or hazel she will be prettier than Jennie, they have a fine large yard to play in and plenty of nice milk. Our physician is a man of considerable reputation very kind to us has taken a great liking to Mr Hope, the only objection is that he never had any children and is not at all fond of them, and I am afraid of troubling him, when mine are sick as he cant understand my anxiety, I told him one day I wished he had four or five, he said it was a cruel wish.

Tell Jessie I hope to be near enough to him to trouble him again, if I am to have sickness in my family, I used to miss him last summer when Jennie was so sick, I have cried so much since this war began that I wonder I am not blind, and notwithstanding I have been through so much anxiety, fatigue and still nurse the baby a great deal, I am in very good health and looking very well. This place seems to agree with me very well, I like it so much as I could any place away from home, these are some things that remind me of dear old Hampton. I think your Ma would like it. The family with whom we are boarding are very kind and really seem attached to me, I go out very little, could have made a large number of acquaintances

but did not feel like visiting, almost everybody in town called to see us. when we first came and I did not return the visits until the week before Christmas. Mrs His and Addington are boarding in this house but will go back to Richmond after the battle on the Peninsular if we gain the victory, they send their love and say you must write and tell them all the particulars of your family.

I feel so anxious about the battle that I rarely sit still long enough to write. I heard a sermon yesterday from a Prespyterian minister boarding with us, on the providence of God which was very comforting these times. All the winter I was hoping that in the Spring I should be able to pay a visit to Uncle Tom Loweys family in Petersburg and from there to Richmond to see you all, but had to give it all up everything is so unset-teld, and then Julia has a young baby about three months old and I would not drag that about with me she has not improved at all as lazy as ever. I kept her thinking Nannie might require a wet nurse this summer when she was getting her teeth, but she has three without any trouble and I do not intend to let Julia nurse her unless she gets very sick she is getting along very well with me and the bottle. I am really afraid Sisie you will not be able to read this (you must feel slighted) but best part of the time I have been thinking that I was writing to your Ma. Give my love to every member of the family without one exception and please write soon, if I cant see you all, do let me hear from you.

Affectionately your cousin
Annie

Georgetown

April 23.

Dear Pa.

When I reached here today I received orders to join the 2^d Va Cavalry!! which left here this morning to reinforce Jackson.

Jackson is yet in the valley and reinforcements are crowding over to him -

I got a government horse - rather sorry one - and bought a saddle & bridle for \$8.75.

If Mr. Stonecove sends my bill to you pay it as he directs -

You may receive an account for my commutations for quarters & fuel - if so collect it - in the office where Ben West stays.

Love to all - In haste
W. H. P.

(William Hope Peek)

17

pa ink

Gordonsville

April 23

Dear Pa

When I reached here today I received orders to join the 2n Va. Cavalry !! which left here this morning to reinforce Jackson.

Jackson is yet in the valley and reinforcements are crowding over to him -

I got a government horse - rather sorry one - and bought a saddle & bridle for 28\$.

If Mr. Houseworth deeds my bill to you pay it as he directs -

You may receive an account for my commutation of quarters & fuel - if so collect it - in the office where Bess West stays.

Love to all - In haste
W. H. P.

Camp 2^d. Va Cavalry
Orange Co.

Dear Ma

I had my first experience
last night - slept out on the ground
rather cold - quite well today
Have no tents - snowing &
raining - made a shelter & was
covering it with straw - it broke
down - caught afire & -
was invited into another
shelter - staid there awhile -
Found an old college mate
a lieutenant - am now in
his shelter & will remain
with him a short while -
The Colonel is rather a queer
man - am afraid I won't
set along with him - hope
to do so & shall try to do it -

Don't mind bivouacking much -
Have no idea of what movement
the troops are going to make -
Jackson is about 18 miles off - on the
other side of the Blue Ridge - Love to all -
Yours Willie

(William Hope Peek)

16A

1 pg ink

Camp 2n Va. Cavalry
Orange Co.

Dear Ma

I had my first experience last night - slept out on ground rather cold - quite well today Have no tents - snowing & raining - made a shelter & was covering it with straw - it broke down - caught afire & ec- was invited into another shelter - stayed there awhile - Found an old college mate lieutenant am now in his shelter & will remain with him a short while - The Colonel is rather a green man - am affraid I won't get along with him - hope to do so & shall try to do it - Don't mind bivwacking much - Have no idea what movement the troops are going to make - Jackson is about 18 miles off on the outer side of the Blue Ridge - Love to all -

Yours
Willie

The Yankees have retreated from this
quarter and there is no longer any
danger. I will write soon and give
you a full account Florence Ala.
of their raid A 30th April 25th 1862

My dear Sir,

I am now in
Lincolnton; but not a prisoner.
That division of the army from
Nashville that marched on
Stuntville, Ala. has entirely cut
us off. They have come as far
as Tusculumbia and compelled
our forces to burn the bridge over
the Tennessee at this point, which
has relieved us from great in-
convenience, as it prevents the
enemy from crossing in any
force capable of doing harm;
but effectually cut us off from
the rest of the world. The only
way I can get a letter to you
now is by hand to Corinth &
thence to Richmond; and the

inconveniences and dangers of
the journey are so great that
very few will undertake it. Hence
I have not been able to write for
a long time. I am very well at
present and in good spirits, al-
though surrounded by the enemy.

We have been visited ~~xxx~~ several
times by groups of Yankees, but they
were officers on special business
every time. They have disturbed
no one nor made any arrest at
all - the ^{re}publicans having left
before the bridge was burnt - I mean
all the prominent public men.

So far as I am concerned I
have had fears that they would
take me if they found me out, &
acting under this apprehension
I have packed up a carpet bag
with a few clothes and will
run on the slightest intimation.
I can easily get to Corinth at

any time I choose to start. But
so far as my safety is concerned
you need have no apprehension at
all; for I am doing as well as ever,
always keeping a look out; and really
don't think they will visit this side
any more from what we have heard
to day. They say that several regiments
of our Troops are within two hours
march of the enemy at Tusculum,
and that the latter are sending
all their Artillery towards Hunts-
ville in retreat. Since the river is
rather low, and it is very difficult
to procure supplies over land, the
enemy have been pressing all
the more they can find without
payment, which will cause them
to retreat; and this circumstance
will also prevent them from crossing
the river here, since their boats can-
not come to their aid. I mean
the fall in the river has disappointed

them in their anticipated cooper-
-ation with their army before Corinth,
cut off their supplies by the river
and compelled them to fall back.
And the fact of their not being able
to cross the river here will free
Flourence from their incursions.

I am now at Mrs Rice's where Miss
Mollie Bagland is boarding. Mrs Rice
has requested me to stay here while
her husband is in Memphis there
being no gentleman on the lot - and Miss
Mollie has kindly offered me her pen
ink and paper to write as this
perhaps may be the last opportunity
for some time. She sends her kindest
regards to you, and was much pleased
to receive the little banquet you
sent. We can't get any news here
except what the Yankees report, and
those reports have not the slightest effect
on me. We hear that Yorktown has fallen
and 60 thousand prisoners are taken,
that Norfolk is in the hands of the
enemy, and even, that Richmond
is taken and some of the Officers of 90th

[25 Apr. 1862/5]

All these reports we believe to be
base fabrications circulated to
depress and dishearten the Southern
men in North Ala. and Tennessee.

They do not have their desired
effect, for we are all acquainted
with the natural disposition of
Yankees. I cannot but tell you
again, as I cannot perhaps get
another letter to you for some time,
to have no fear concerning
my safety. I will assure you
that I will not be taken by the
Yankees even if they should decide
to capture me. There are hills and
caves and hollows enough in
this country to hide in for months.
But that will not be my object
as I have said, but to go to Corinth
which I can do without any danger
at all except from crossing the
river while a gunboat may be near ^{wh:}

is highly improbable that I shall do. After I cross the river I will have to walk 12 miles through a friendly country infested by our cavalry. From Corinth the railroad will take me anywhere.

The last letter I received from you you sent the violet. I have never had an opportunity to reply to it. I have received every thing you sent me upto that time.

I have plenty of money to take care of me, or carry me any where in the Confederacy.

We heard nothing of the battle of Yorktown or Norfolk or any other battle in Va. if one has been fought.

I only suppose they have fought at Yorktown and been cut to pieces.

Hoping you are all well, I send send much love and

~~and~~ your aff. bro. G. W. Peck

(George Meridyth Peek)

16

copy with

The Yankees have retreated from this quarter and there is no longer any danger. I will write soon and give you a full account of the raid. A 30th.

My dear Sis

Florence Ala.
April 25, 1862

I am now in Lincoln^{dom}, but not a prisoner. That division of the army from Nashville that marched on Huntsville, Ala. has entirely cut us off. They have come as far as Tuscomb^{ia} and compelled our forces to burn the bridge over the Tennessee at this point, which has relieved us from great inconvenience, as it prevented the enemy from crossing in any force capable of doing harm, but effectually cut us off from the rest of the world. The only way I can get a letter now is by hand to Corinth & thence to Richmond, and the inconveniences and danger of the journey are so great that very few will undertake it. Hence I have not been able to write for a long time. I am very well at present and in good spirits, although surrounded by the enemy.

We have been visited several times by groups of Yankees, but they were officers on special business every time. They have disturbed no one nor made any arrest at all- the secessionist having left before the bridge was burnt - I mean all the prominent public men.

So far as I am concerned I have had fear that they would take me if they found me out, & acting under this apprehension, I have packed up a carpet bag with a few clothes, and will run on the slightest intimation. I can easily get to Corinth at any time I chose to start. But so far as my safety is concerned. You need have no apprehension at all, for I am doing as well as ever, always keeping a look out, and really don't think they will visit this side any more from what we have heard to day. They say that several regiments of our Troops are within two hours march of the Enemy at Tuscumbia, and that the later are sending all their artillery towards Huntsville in retreat. Since the river is rather low, and it is very difficult to procure supplies overland, the enemy have been pressing all the bacon they can find without payment, which will cause them to retreat, and this circumstance will also prevent them from crossing the river here, since their boats, can not come to their aid. I mean the fall in the river has disappointed them in their anticipated cooperation with their army before Corinth. Cut off there supplies by the river and compelled them to fall back - And the fact of there not being able to cross the river here will free Florence from their inroads.

I am now at Mrs Rice where Miss Mollie Ragland is boarding. Mrs Rice has requested me to stay here while her husband is in Memphis there being no gentleman on the lot - and Miss Mollie has kindly offered me her pen & ink and paper to write as this prehaps may be the last opportunity for some time. She sends her kindest regards to you, and was much pleased to receive the little bouquet you sent. We can't get any news here except what the Yankees report, and these reports, have not the slightest effect on me. - We hear that Yorktown has fallen and 10 thousand prisoners are taken, that Norfolk is in the hands of the enemy, and even, that Richmond is taken and some of the officers of government. All these reports we beleive to be base frabrications circulated to depress and dishearten the southern men in North Ala. and Tennessee.

(George Meridyth Peek)

16 pg 2

They do not have their desired effect, for we are all acquainted with the natural disposition of Yankees. I cannot but tell you again, as I cannot perhaps get another letter to you for some time, to have no fear concerning my safety. I will assure you that I will not be taken by the Yankees even if they should desire to capture me. There are hills & caves and hollows enough in this country to hide in for months. But that will not be my object - as I have said, but to go to Corinth. Which I can do without any danger at all except from crossing the river while a gunboat may be near, is highly improbable that I shall do. After I cross the river I will have to walk 12 miles through a friendly country infested by Cavalry. From Corinth the railroad will take me anywhere.

The last letter I received from you, you sent the violets. I have never had an oppornity to reply to it. I have received every thing you sent me upto that time.

I have plenty of money to take care of me, or cary me any where in the Confederacy.

We know nothing of the battle of Yorktown or Norfolk or any other battle in Va. if one has been fought. I only suppose they have fought at Yorktown and been cut to peices.

Hoping you are all well I sen send much love and and.

Your Aff. Bro.
G. M. Peek

Richmond April 26. 1862.

My dear Brother;

We have not heard from you for so long a time that our anxiety has arisen to quite a high pitch now. We knew that the Yankees had possession of Huntsville some time ago and thought they had control of all Alabama north of the Tennessee river and therefore all communications cut off from Florence. I hope by this time a better state of affairs are existing and I write a few lines. Bro. Thomas paid us a visit a short time ago, remained over a week; came on business; quartermaster for Gen Vardorn. Bro. Willie left us, after having paid us visit of a few days, last Wednesday.

He said he was most delightfully situated at Orange C.H., boarding in a nice private family, but was afraid he would have to leave these quarters as the army had been concentrated at Pardonsville to operate against Fredericksburg. He was anxious to get on the Peninsular so that he could attend to bro. Eddie & Bonnie if anything should happen to them. Poor bro. Eddie has been sick, Bro. Bonnie sent him to Richmond, and we could hear nothing from him for a fortnight, when we received a letter stating that he had been ~~at~~ Biglows in the dirtiest hospital he ever saw, and they would not let him come to Richmond to be nursed by his friends, or leave the hospital, until he said he wanted to go to camp, where he was going the next day.

We received also a letter from Bennie. Her ma was at Mr. Davis' farm, the generals' headquarters, where she went to carry Billie some clothes he having lost all of his.

They have had no regular battle at Yorktown yet, and our friends are still untouched, we frequently get letters from them.

The people in Williamsburg have been terribly frightened. Many of them have fled to a safe place. Among the families, are - Mr. Hams, Dr. Cam's, Mr. Booker's and relations to Petersburg. Bapt. Smith's whole family, Old Mr John Armistead and lady, Mrs Tie Jennings, Mrs Kitten (Howard) Armistead are on Church Hill. We go over there sometimes to see them, in our carriage! I reckon you have not heard of young John Armistead's death, he died in Williamsburg quite suddenly with a chill, he leaves many distressed friends to go after him. We hear that the Yankees have committed many depredations on the Peninsula, being short of provisions, have deprived the poor people of theirs, Mr Simpson had to run with his children and leave every thing behind even his money. Mr Chandler, (who was ~~the~~ Johnnie's partner) remained and said he would do the best he could with the stock. We heard through a Yankee letter in the newspaper that Mr. Chandler charged \$1.25 per lb for coffee, and that he met them, and said he was a Union man, well that was what he was compelled to do, to be protected.

We received a letter from Cousin Richard a few days ago he was very comfortably situated in Surry County with pleasant neighbors; said his preacher was "Old Hundred" (Mr Clarke), also spoke of having Mr McGee to visit him. Have you heard of the death of Dr McGuiggis. He died ^{one} ~~some~~ of the farms on James River.

We are all in a flourishing condition, the flowers & fruit blooming beautifully, which we hoped to enjoy, if the cold weather does not kill it. We will see you in vacation I suppose? I want to know if Mr. Smart is a Methodist. Write - often.

Affectionately, D.S.

Your M^r wishes you to write every day, when does your school close

(letter to George Peek from
Sissy - Maria S. Peek)

2 pg ink

Saturday

Richmond April 26, 1862.

My dear Brother ;

We have not heard from you for so long a time that our anxiety has risen to quite a high pitch now. We know that the Yankees had possession of Huntsville some time ago and thought they had control of all Alabama north of the Tennessee river and therefore all communication cut off from Florence. I hope by this time a better state of affairs is existing and I write a few lines. Bro. Thomas paid us a visit a short time ago, remained over a week ; came on business ; quartermaster for Gen Vandorn. Bro. Willie left us, after having paid us visit of a few days, last Wednesday.

He said he was most delightfully situated at Orange C.H., boarding in a nice private family, but was afraid he would have to leave these quarters as the army had been concentrated at Gordonsville to operate against Fredericksburg. He was anxious to get on the Peninsular so that he could attend to bro. Eddie & Johnnie if anything should happen to them. Poor bro. Eddie has been sick, Bro. Johnnie sent him to Richmond, and we could hear nothing from him for a fortnight, when we received a letter stating that he had been at Biglows in the dirtiest hospital he ever saw, and they would not let him come to Richmond to be nursed by his friends, or leave the hospital, until he said he wanted to go to camp, where he was going the next day.

We received also a letter from Jennie. Her Ma was at Mr. Davis' farm, the generals' headquarters, where she went to carry Billie some cloths he having lost all of his.

They have had no regular battle at Yorktown yet, and our friends are still untouched, we frequently get letters from them.

The people in Williamsburg have been terrible frightened many of them have fled to a safe place. Among the families, are - Mr. Hams, Dr. Cam's (?) Booker's and relations to Petersburg. Capt. Smith's whole family, Old Mr. John Armistead and lady, Mrs. Fie Jennings, Mrs Kitten (Howard) Armistead are on Church Hill. We go over there sometimes to see them, in our carriage ! I reckon you have not heard of young John Armistead's death. He died in Williamsburg quite suddenly with a chill. He leaves many distressed friends to go after him. We hear that the Yankees have committed many depredations on the Peninsular, being short of provisions, have deprived the poor people of theirs. Mr. Simpson had to run with his children and leave everything behind even his money. Mr. Chandler, (who was Johnnies partner) remained behind and said he would do the best he could with the stock. We heard though a Yankee letter in the newspaper that Mr. Chandler charged \$1.25 per lb for coffee. and that he met them, and said he was a union man. Well that was what he was compelled to do, to be protected.

We received a letter from Cousin Richard a few days ago. He was very comfortably situated in Surry County with pleasant neighbors : Said his preacher was "Hal Aundred " (Mr. Clark) also spoke of having Mr. McGee

(to George from Sissy)

to visit him. Have you heard of the death of Sr. McGuiggin. He died at one of the farmers on James River.

We are all in a flourishing condition, the flowers & fruit - blooming beautifully, which we hoped to enjoy, if the cold weather doesn't kill it. We will see you in vacation I suppose ? Ma wants to know if Dr. Suart is a Methodist. Write often.

Affectionately, Sis

Your Ma wishes you to write every day, when does your school close

Camp near Stanardsville
Greenwood, Va. April 29.

Dear Ma. Here I am in the tented field I was going to say but that would not be strictly correct - for we have no tents and our camp is not in a field - nor do we have the disadvantages even men would say, of having to sleep in narrow tents -

When I got to Gordonsville I received my orders from Lt. Williams to join this regiment - which as I expected was a punishment for my going down to Richmond - that I had full permission to do so - for he intended to send me with P. Caliaferno to Farnesville where he has opened a hospital. You know I had no horse, saddle, or bridle, and come pretty badly fixed. However there was an Assistant Sur. Gen. there who had a government horse in his possession, and as he was going to a hospital I prevailed on him to turn the horse over to me and sell the saddle so for which I paid him 28¢. My next trouble was to provide for my valise & then find my regiment which had already left Gordonsville. Finding no wagons there belonging to our regiment, I left it in charge of the wagon master of the 48th Va. of Jackson's army as every body said our regiment was going on to him. On the road I found out our regiment was not going on to Jackson at once - and I wrote back to a friend of mine at Gordonsville to get my valise from that man and keep it in the Hospital. If he got that note and then got my valise I shall certainly get it again at some time or other.

I rode on that afternoon and soon came upon my regiment which was encamped in a piece of woods about 6 or 7 miles from Gordonsville & the same from Orange Ct. The Colonel introduced me to 2 or 3 officers & that was all - he should have invited me to sup with him and sleep in his

tent that night. But the officers were a queer bunch
about messing - The staff all mess, I believe, singly by
themselves. and the officers generally mess with pri-
vates. I wish I could have gotten some of them
where everything was done properly. I soon found
the acting Surgeon's tent (where I slept) making
where I slept) making up some kind of a shelter
taking up some kind of a shelter with my blankets. I
with my blankets. I kept up during the night
up during the night. it began to snow soon
it began to snow soon off with his servant to
off with his servant to away, but the servant
away, but the servant had begun to make a sort of
shelter of tent rods I understood to finish it as
shelter of tent rods the others were doing
the others were doing by covering it with straw
I got from a neighboring field. but while doing so it
I got from a neighboring broke down (snowing very hard) and nearly
broke down (snowing very hard) and nearly caught
my head under it. Some privates nearly
my head under it. Some privates nearly covered
me under their shelter and there I remained
me under their shelter and there I remained about
an hour. Lieutenant Halsey of Spenning came
an hour. Lieutenant Halsey of Spenning came
to get me to see his brother who was sick. He & I
to get me to see his brother who was sick. He & I
at the University together and after I got his brother
at the University together and after I got his brother
off to the Hospital he insisted I should go
off to the Hospital he insisted I should go with
him. He had two brothers - and a nice shelter
him. He had two brothers - and a nice shelter
cloths & a negro man to wait on them. The well
cloths & a negro man to wait on them. The well
went with the sick one leaving the sick - with me.
went with the sick one leaving the sick - with me.
I spent the remainder of that day and night very
I spent the remainder of that day and night very
well - The next day the desert went away & took
well - The next day the desert went away & took
man with him & his brother returned. He & I re-
man with him & his brother returned. He & I re-
mained together - his name was Stephen - tho' I was
remained together - his name was Stephen - tho' I was
nominally messing with Dr. Davis. As we got our
nominally messing with Dr. Davis. As we got our
Steve and I had to get supper ourselves. I made the
Steve and I had to get supper ourselves. I made the
bread & he did the meat & coffee. The bread was pro-
bread & he did the meat & coffee. The bread was pro-
nounced the very best in the whole camp, and as
nounced the very best in the whole camp, and as
good as any body need have. Thus we got along
good as any body need have. Thus we got along
a day or so longer when Saturday night orders
a day or so longer when Saturday night orders
came for us to march at daybreak the next morn-
ing.

took that night. But the...
about morning. The...
themselves and...
water. I...
where...
the...
where I...
making...
to...
with...
up...
it...
off with...
away, but the...
shelter...
the...
I got...
broke even (sweating very hard) and...
my head under it...
we...
see how...
to get me to see...
at the...
off to the...
He had two...
clothes & a...
went with the...
I spent the...
well - the...
man with...
remained together - his name was...
nominally...
Steve and I...
bread & he...
nourished the...
good as any...
a day or so...
came for us to...
ing.

(William Hope Peek)

18

2 pg pencil

Camp near Stanardsville
Green Co. Va. April 29

Dear Ma

Here I am in the tented feild I was going to say but that would not be strictly correct - for we have no tents and are camped is not a feild - nor do we have the disadvantages our men would say, of having to sleep in canvas tents -

When I got to Gordonsville I received my orders from Dr. Williams to join this regiment - which as I expected was a punishment for my going down to Richmond tho' I had full permission to do so - for he intended to send me with Dr. Taliaferro to Farmville where he has opened a hospital. You know I have no horse, saddle or bridle and was pretty badley fixed. however there was an assistant Surgeon there who had a government horse in his possession, and as he was going to a hospital I prevailed on him to turn the horse over to me and sell the saddle ec for which I paid 28\$. My next trouble was to provide for my valise & then find my regiment which had already left for Gordonsville. Finding no wagons there belonging to our regiment I left it in charge of the wagon - master of the 48th Va. of Jackson's army as every body said our regiment was going on to him. On the road I found out our regiment was not going on to Jackson at once - and I wrote back to a friend of mine at Gordonsville to get my valise from that man and keep it in the Hospital. If he got that note and then got my valise I shall certianly get it again at some time or other.

I rode on that afternoon and soon came upon my regiment which was incamped in a piece of woods about 6 or 7 miles from Gordonsville & the same from Orange C.H. The colonel introduced me to 2 or 3 officers & that was all - he should have invited me to sup with him and sleep in his tent that night. But these officers here are queer about messing - The staff all mess I believe, singly by themselves - and the officers generally mess with privates - I wish I could have gotten (missing).

Where every thing was done properly I soon forsee the acting Sergeon & he invited me to his company where I slept my first night on the ground. Raking up some leaves and spreading my carpet taking my overcoat for a pillow & covering up with my blankets. I felt quite cold and woke up during the night several times - The next morning it began to snow soon a blanket (*CRASED, UNABLE TO READ*)

off with his servant to the wagon camp some distance away, but the servant had begun to make a sort of cow shelter of fence rails. I under took to finish it as the others were doing by covering it with straw which I got from a neighboring field. but while doing so it broke down (snowing very hard) and nearly caught my head under it. Some privates near by invited me under their shelter and there I remained about an hour. Luientinant Halsey of Lynchburg came to get me to see his brother who was sick - He & I were at the University together and after I got his brother off to the Hospital he insisted I should remain with him. He had two brothers - and a nice shelter. - oil cloth & a negro man to wait on them. The well brother went with the sick one leaving ^{the} Luilet. with me. I shot the remainder of that day and night very well - The next day the Luilet. went away & took the man with him & his brother returned. He & I've remained together - his name was Stephen - tho' I was nominally missing with Dr. Davis. As we lost our cook Steve and I

(William Hope Peek)

18 pg 2

had to get supper ourselves. I made the bread & he did the meat & coffee. The bread was pronounced the very best in the whole camp, and as good as any body need have - Thus we got along a day or so longer when Saturday night orders came for us to march at day break the next morning.

(the rest of the letter is missing)

Gordonsville Va May 2. 1862.

Dear Ma.

Since I last wrote from our camp near Standardville, Green Co. the regiment has marched across the Blue Ridge mountain, I along with them, and is now encamped in Rockingham Co. Va where I left them yesterday. Our march was a very disagreeable one indeed through a heavy rain and thick fog - thus preventing us from enjoying the prospect from the top of the mountain which must be very fine indeed. I have now crossed that same mountain twice and both times thro' the rain, but I hope when I go over to morrow it will be fair weather. When we reached our camp ~~on~~ on the other side it was still raining - but fires were soon made and after drying my overcoat w^h alone of my clothes was wet. I spread my piece of carpet & saddle blanket on the ground & covering with my wet blankets slept soundly till morning - waking only once.

that ought to be enough to give one the pneumonia but I awoke in the morning very much refreshed and not at all sick.

I have been thro' the very worst phases of camp life - couldn't have had much worse weather, or fared worse as to eating, yet I don't dislike it so much -

Yesterday I was ordered to our wagon camp near this place to examine some sick we have there and make some disposition of them - This afternoon I shall go there & start out on my return to my regiment, 37 miles distant tomorrow

I left there about one o'clock: got to Standardsville on this side the mountains about sunset (17 miles) and at once made for the house of my friend Mr Diggs of whom I have before spoken, where I was hospitably entertained till this morning when I left for this place (20 miles) -

We will soon have a fight now in the valley unless the Yankees retreat toward Winchester, which I hear they are doing - and if we fight we will certainly whip them. We have nearly or quite as many men as they have, and the best kind too.

I believe I shall get my valise again, as I fortunately came upon it today in a wagon on the road.

Tell Pa to have my boots mended at once - as there may occur some opportunity for sending them to me. If you write direct to me - 2^d Va Cavalry Standardsville, Green Co Va. Stating my rank on the envelope -

Love to all - I am perfectly well -

Affly

W. H. Peck

Mr Lantle M. Peck,
Richmond,
Virginia.

(William Hope Peek)

19

Gordonsville Va. May 2, 1862

Dear Ma -

3 pg ink

Since I last wrote from our camp near Stanardsville, Green Co. the regiment has marched across the Blue Ridge mountains. I along with them, and is now encamped in Rockingham Co. Va. where I left them yesterday. Our march was a very disagreeable one indeed though a heavy rain and thick fog - this preventing us from enjoying the prospect from the top of the mountain which must be very fine indeed. I have now crossed that same mountain twice and both times thro' the rain ; but I hope when I go over tomorrow it will be fair weather.

When we reached our camp on the other side it was still raining - but fires were soon made and after drying my overcoat wh- alone of my cloths was wet - I spread my piece of carpet & saddle blanket on the ground & covering with my wet blanket slept soundly till morning - waking once.

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I have been thro' the very worst places of camp life - couldn't have had much worse weather or fured worse as to eating, yet I don't dislike it so much -

Yesterday I was ordered to our wagon camp near this place to examine some sick we have there and make some disposition on them - this afternoon I shall go there & start out on my return to my regiment, 37 miles distant tomorrow.

I left there about one o'clock got to Stanardsville on this side the mountains about sunset (17 miles) and at once made for the house of my friend Mrs Diggs of whom I have before spoken where I was hospitably entertained till this morning where I left for this place (20 miles) -

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I believe I shall get my valise again, as I fortunately came upon it today in a wagon on the road.

Tell pa to have my boots mended at once - as there may occur some opportunity for sending them to me. If your write direct to me - 2n Va. Cavalry Stanardsville, Green Co. Va. stating my rank on the envelope -

Love to all - I am perfectly well -

Affecty
W. H Peek

Florence Ala.

May 3^d 1862

My dear Sir,

I will make another attempt to let you hear from me, although the difficulties in the way are so great that I little expect to succeed. It is necessary, as I told you in a former letter, that some friend take my letter to Corinth before it can reach the office; and for several days with long intervals of intermission, we have heard cannonading in that direction, and on last evening it was so heavy and continuous that I am confident a considerable battle was raging there. And then we have heard so many conflicting reports of battles in Virginia, that even Richmond for aught I know may be cut off from mail communication. But among the rumors I have heard from the East the news of the battle at Yorktown seems to be so well authenticated that I am induced to believe a considerable victory has been gained in that quarter. Generals Lee and Johnston are both killed and our loss is great; but the enemy are

reported to have lost in killed wounded and missen prisoners - about 50000 men with Genl. McClelland a prisoner. It seems to me I had rather the affair had not transpired than that Lee and Johnston should have been killed. They were without doubt our greatest generals, and while we had them the North stood in fear of their military skill and knowledge; but now they are lost we have none but Beauregard and Price to create panics in the ranks of Ab.

I feel very anxious to hear from you now, since I suppose Brothers Annie and Eddie were in the battle, and Billie stays too - Oh! he cannot be killed. I hope not for his Mother's sake. All may be killed. I am in some suspense to know, although I am prepared for anything. I used to associate an awfulness and horror with the death of a soldier on the battle field, which, certainly, would have forever prevented me from becoming a warrior. But, now, I have no feeling of the kind. It is associated with duty, honor and an exalted patriotism. I cannot feel sorry for those who fall in this contest I can only feel sad, and honor and revere their memories. There is the least evil we can resort to (and there is nothing good in reach)

Battle is the only alternative, and it has no terrors to me; for the terror is absorbed in duty, love of Country and the happy condition we shall be in if successful with the depraved and debased condition of society if we fail.

My own people have now had an opportunity to repay with bullets and blood and death what the enemy have perpetrated in their cowardly and barbarous manner; and most nobly did they do their duty. How much more delighted am I, therefore, at so brilliant a victory, although our loss is grievous! And what if our friends exposed their persons and are killed? did they not manfully and heroically interpose themselves between their families, their parents, the liberties of their Country, and destruction? We weep for their loss, but it could not be otherwise. Death is sweeter than slavery.

I feel sometimes that I am somewhat isolated here, cut off from every where, & even deprived of the friends I had recently gained, who have run away from the Yankees.

Do not think for a moment, however, that I am discontented. Saying aside the fact that I am not in the Army, I am perfectly well satisfied here, and am always prepared for the worst.

We hear to day that the Conscription law has passed Congress. I would state for your comfort, so far as it concerns me, that while I am a professor in this Institution, I am exempt by the laws of the state of Alabama, and before my time is out here I shall endeavor to secure an easy place in the army so that I will not come under the conscription.

I wish I could only see the bill, that I might understand its nature &c, so that I could make my efforts accordingly.

For a considerable time, as I have told you in a previous letter, we have been menaced by a Yankee force under Genl. Mitchell. It was reported that his Column numbered 35,000 men at one time, but rumor finally reduced it to 6000, and fact finally settled the number of men at Tusculum at about 2000. It was a daring move in that General ~~to~~ to penetrate so far with ~~so~~ few men. 'Tis true he had troops scattered all along the road to Nashville; but by that his Column became so reduced that it might have fallen an easy prey to an incomparable force. Hence it was a great point with that leader to conceal the number of his troops as much as possible, and this he succeeded admirably in doing. He sent a party of officers unguarded and almost without arms to represent the force and intention of the enemy

The town of Course was to be occupied by numerous regiments, private property was to be respected and public men should not be harmed; thus overawing the people by the presence of a large force, and, at the same time, pacifying them by expressions of leniency. They permitted no person, man or child, to depart from their camp after once entering it. On the other side of the river their policy seemed to be directly the opposite. The soldiers seemed to have a general license to wander and prowl about the country and to pilage every thing they could find. The barbarian and ruthless-ness of these men, whom their general acknow-^{l-}edged came from the prisons of Chicago and the cities of Illinois, will forever be remembered by the people of North Alabama. Three troops were reported coming in every day to reinforce, and the bold and avowed intention of the Commander was to flank the troops at Corinth. Thus the people were over awed and woefully chastised by an enemy, which the militia with the aid of one Cavalry regiment might have driven back. This said in the state of Alabama.

has been characterized by the most lawless and inhumane acts ever inflicted upon a civilized community by a regular armed force. A general license seemed to be granted them to pillage, plunder and destroy, as no satisfaction could be obtained from the commander for the conduct of his men. The houses of peaceable citizens were entered and before their eyes pillaged and rifled. They gave vent to the meanest and most base passions of wicked men banded together for robbery and works of destruction. To give some examples of their actions I will narrate a few facts.

A band of these men entered Dr. Houston's house, broke open his doors, stove in his side-board, destroyed his china ware, cut in shreds his Brussels carpet, and the clothes of his family, smashed his glasses and carried off every particle of silver ware, broke open his daughter's jewelry and stamped it to pieces; in a word, committed a whole sale work of destruction, and that in the presence of his family. In narrating this one instance I narrate a dozen -

Some one young lady of my own acquaintance, who was a visitor there, they took forcibly all her money and jewelry, even the ring and picture of her lover who is in the Confederate army. This young lady is said to have saved

When approaching one house they shot a negro girl who was
 hastening to acquaint her mother of their coming. but when ever distant and
 humiliated her maid and wife the people and resistance was sure to or even
 threatened their cowardly villainy & culled off they as suffering heavily
 had hoped for their relief by our country men negroes but they
 were the other side of the river. Many of these who are cowardly
 were passing a woman's cart. Some she did not stir and others
 as they passed they belonged to the same but a negro
 man was there with a rifle in his hand and he was
 as if he was a soldier. It was not till a negro
 of our party advanced in and breath of the smoke
 of a gun was near that they were to be feared
 and many of the negroes were seen in uniform
 and some were seen in uniform of Slaves Vol.
 and some were seen in uniform of Slaves Vol.
 and some were seen in uniform of Slaves Vol.
 and some were seen in uniform of Slaves Vol.

When these ~~heathen~~^{men} barbarous
 leveled at him, the
 a manner like Pocahontas
 in a more heroic and
 musketted up his gun and re-
 being an infamous cow-
 and helpless man.
 these men steal and destroy
 the negroes to incurrection, and
 the investigation of their Commander.
 were seen dressed in uniform
 that they belonged to such
 a regiment of Slaves Vol.
 was not confined to the soldiers
 their Commander, on the plea of
 of slaves, robbed the town of
 nearly all its meat without
 whatsoever. But these
 crowds. One single private
 in hand held at bay
 muskets, declaring that
 taken alone and daring
 'within reach of his weapon.
 many other things concerning
 on this state but I
 and must wind up.
 can get any letter to me

please write - I am anxious to hear from home, on account of the recent events that have transpired in my dear old state.

I have unpacked my valise which I had prepared for running - and some of that I intended to do, certainly. For as I value liberty more than life like the man with the ax I shall not be taken alive, if I have any thing worth while to fight - Give my love to Piggie, Aunt Mollie and all -

There now! I have written Mollie again. She will tell me that Miss Mollie is trying to make a good boy of her George.

9/ When approaching one house they shot a negro girl who was
hastening to acquaint her mistress of their coming but what ever dastard and
humiliating fear did not rule the people and resistance was made or even
threatened these cowardly villains sculked off they are suffering heavily and being
harassed by their retreat by our cavalry. Many negroes have been
driven to the other side for joining the rebels. At a point where two of our cavalry
were passing a woman had a house she ran out and stopped them
asked of what party they belonged or being told they were South
side troops she begged them to come into her house that a negro
man was there looking for her husband to kill him saying that
he was a rebel. When she did inquire to take that man. The cavalry
soldiers went in and brought the man out with a rope around his neck
and swung him up to a tree in the yard and shot him. The negro
was excited and demanded to take up arms in this dangerous
said and must mind up,
and get any better & we

When we were ~~there~~ in Auburn
a man like President
a more heroic and
up his gun and a
being at his famous on -
and helped man.
there was steel and death
the negroes to massacre, and
of their summer.
we were seen near in uniform
that they belonged to and
of slaves of slaves etc.
was not confined to the act
of summer, in the plea of
whether we it must without
what we. But there
concerns one single word
in hand held at bay
murder, declaring that
taken alive and saving
within reach of his weapon.
any other things concerning
on this state but I
and must mind up,
get any better & we

(George Meridyth Peek)

17

6 pg ink

Florence Ala.

May 3rd 1862

My dear Sis,

I will make another attempt to let you hear from me, although the difficulties in the way are so great that I little expect to succeed. It is necessary, as I told you in a former letter, that some friend take my letter to Corinth before it can reach the office, and for several days with long intervals of intermission, we have heard cannonading in that direction, and on last evening it was so heavy and continuous that I am confident a considerable battle was being there. And then we have heard so many conflicting reports of battles in Virginia, that even Richmond for aught I know may be cut off from mail communication. But among the rumors I have heard from the East the news of the battle of Yorktown seems to be so well authenticated that I am induced to believe a considerable victory has been gained at that quarter. Generals Lee and Johnston are both killed and our loss is great, but the enemy are reported to have lost in killed wounded and missing prisoners &c- about 50000 men with Gen McClelland a prisoner. It seems to me I had rather the affair had not transpired than that Lee and Johnston should have been killed. They were without doubt our greatest generals, and while we had them the North stood in fear of their Military skill and knowledge, but now they are lost we have but Beauregard and Price to create panics in the ranks of Abe.

I feel very anxious to hear from you now, since I suppose brothers Jonnie and Eddie were in the battle and Billie Stores too -- Oh! he cannot be killed. I hope not for his mother's sake. All may be killed I am in some suspense to know, Although I am prepared for any thing. I used to associate an awfulness and horror with the death of a soldier on the battlefield, which, certainly, would have for ever prevented my from becoming a warrior. But, now, I have no feeling of the kind. It is associated with duty, honor and an exalted patriotism. I cannot feel sorry for those who fall in this Contest. I can only feel sad, and honor and serve their memories. War is the least evil we can resort to (and there is nothing good in reach). Battle is the only alternative, and it has no terrors to me, for the terror is absorbed in duty, love of country and the happy condition we shall be in if successful with the depraved and debased conditions of society if we fail.

My own people have now had an opportunity to repay with bullets and blood and death the enemy have perpetrated in their cowardly and barbarous manner, and most nobly did they do their duty. How much more delighted am I, therefore, at so brilliant a victory, although our loss is grievous! And what if our friends exposed their persons and are killed? did they not manfully and heroically interpose themselves between their families, their parents, the liberties of their country and destruction? We weep for their loss, but it could not be otherwise.

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I feel sometimes that I am somewhat isolated here, cut off from every where & even deprived of the friends I had recently gained. Who have run away from the Yankees.

Do not think for a moment, however, that I am discontented. Laying aside the fact that I am not in the army, I am perfectly well satisfied here, and

always prepared for the worst.

We hear to day that the Conscription law has passed Congress. I would state for your comfort, so far as it concerns me, that while I am a professor in this institution I am exempt by the laws of the state of Alabama, and before my time is out here I shall endeavor to secure an easy place in the army so that I will not come under the Conscription.

I wish I could only see the bill, that I might understand its nature &C, so that I could make my efforts accordingly.

For a considerable time, as I have told you in a previous letter, we have been menaced by a Yankee force under Genl. Mitchel. It was reported that his column numbered 35,000 men at one time, but rumor finally reduced it to 6000, and fact finally settled the number of men at Tusculumbia at about 2000. It was a daring move in that General to penetrate so far with so few men. 'Tis true he had troops scattered all along the road to Nashville, but by that his column became so reduced that it might have fallen an easy pray to an inconsiderable force. Hence it was a great point with that leader to conceal the number of his troops as much as possible, and this he succeeded admerably in doing. He sent a party of officers unguarded. and almost without arms to represent the force and intention of the enemy. The town of Course was to be occupied by numerous regiments, privates, proptery was to be respected and public men should not be harmed, thus overaury the people by the presence of a large force, and, at the same time passifying them by expressions of leniency. They permitted no person, man or child, to depart from this Camp after once entering it. On the other side of the river their policy seemed to be directly the opposite. The soldiers seemed to have a general license to wander and proul about the country and to pillage every thing they could find. The barbarties and ruthlessness of these men, whom their general acknowledged came from the prisons of Chicago and the cities of Illinois, will forever be remembered. by the people of North Alabama.

More troops were reported coming in every day to reinforce, and the bold avowed intention of the Commander was to flank the troops at Corinth. There the people were over awed and wofully chastized by an enemy, which the Militia with the aid of one cavalry regiment might have driven back. This raid in the state of Alabama has been characterized by the most lawless and inhumane acts ever inflicted upon a civilized community by a regular armed force. A general license seemed to be granted them to pillage, plunder and destroy, as no satisfaction could be obtained from the Commander for the conduct of his men. The houses of peaceable citizens were entered and before their eyes pillaged and rifled. They gave vent to the meanest and most barbarous passions of wicked men banded together for robbery and works of destruction. To give some examples of their actions I will narrate a few facts.

A band of these men entered Dr. Houstons house, broke open his doors, stove in his side-board, destroyed his china ware, cut in shreads his bressels carpet, and the clothes of his family, smashed his glosses and carried off every particle of silver ware, broke open his daughters piano and stomped it to peices, in a word, committed a whole sale work of destruction, and that in the presence of his family. In narrating this one instance I narrate a dozen-

From one young lady of my acquaintance who was a Visitor there, they took forceably all her money and jewelry, even the ring and pictured of her lover,

(George Meridyth Peek)

17 pg 3

who is in the Confederate Army. This young lady is said to have saved the life of a sick soldier who could hardly move in his bed. When one of these barbarious fanatics had his gun leveled at him, the young lady not in a manner like Pocahuntas saved Smith, but in a more heroic and daring style he nocked up his gun and reproached him with being an infamous Coward, to shoot a sick and helpless man.

But not only did these men steal and destroy, but they incited the negroes to insurrection, and I beleive at the instigation of their commander. Many negroes were seen dress in uniform and heard to say that they belonged to such and such a regiment of Illinois Vol. and this though was not confined to the soldiers alone. Their Commander, on the plea of being short of provessions, robbed the town of Tuscumbia of nearly all its meat without any compensation what ever. But these men were infamous Cowards. One single resolete man with an ax in hand held at bay a half doz. with muskets, declaring that he would not be taken- alive and daring them to advance within reach of his weapon. I might relate many other things concerning this abominable raid on this state but I have become tired and must wind up. As soon you can get any letter to me please write - I am anxious to hear from home, on account of the recent events that have transpired in my dear old state.

I have unpacked my Valise which I had prepared for running - and some of that I entended to do, certainly. For as I value liberty more than life, like the man with the ax I shall not be taken alive, if I have any thing with which to fight - Give my love to Peggie, Aunt Mollie and all -

There now! I have written Mollie again. Well tell Ma that Miss Mollie is trying to make a good boy of her

Georgie

(WRITTEN VERTICALLY ON THE NEXT TO LAST PAGE)

When approaching one house they shot a negro girl who was hastening to acquaint her mistress of their coming, but where ever dastard and humileating fear did not rule the people and resistance was made or even threatened these cowardly villians sculked off. They are suffering heavily now, being harrassed in their retreat by our cavalry. Four negroes have been hung o. the other side for joining the Yankees Its is said while two of our Cavalry were passing a widow lady's house she ran out and stopped them asked of what party they belonged on being told they were Southern troops she begged them to come in to her house that a negro man was there looking for her husband to kill him saying that he was a free man and intended to rule that house. The cavalry soldiers went in and brought the man out with a rope around his neck and swinging him up to a tree in the yard and rode on. The negroes were excited and persuaded to take up arms in this disgraceful raid.

Cavalry Camp, Elk Run
Rockingham Co Va
May 10 1862.

Dear Ma.

I suppose every time I have a good opportunity for writing you wish me to avail myself of it - and as this is one I will comply with your desire.

The day after my return from Gordonsville where I wrote my last letter to you, we started out on one of the hardest sort of marches - going down the valley towards Winchester 10 or 15 miles and then crossing the mountain in the night along a bridle path and over a mere bed of rocks - while the weather was real wintery - the wind blowing as cold as in February and all of us shivering till wrapped in blankets & overcoats. Just before day we halted in a hollow - so that our camp fires could not be seen and slept on the ground an hour or so - resuming our march about sunrise down the other side of the mountain. We stopped at a small

seven miles above the town of Madison
Ct. where we were taken care of by the
people of the neighborhood for two or three
days - we left that place one morning
about day break and had the nicest
sort of a breakfast served out to us by the
good ladies of Madison Ct., who seemed
to be very much pleased with the appear-
ance of our regiment, tho' there were 3 or
4 companies on detached service.

After breakfast we continued our march
towards Stanardsville and crossed our
now well known mountain over the
turnpike and reached our present
camp. Thus making a complete circuit
crossing the Blue Ridge twice in our
march, making five times that I have
crossed it.

We did not see a Yankee on the whole
march; but expected to have a brush now
if we had had one my hands would
have been full, as I was alone & unassis-
ted by any medical officer.

We have heard of the series of
battles above Crossburg - but not the

final result. and I am exceedingly
anxious to hear of the Hamptonians
and especially Brothers Wherry & Eddie
and Uncle George. I hope Sir will
write at once - if the Yankees don't
succeed in getting to Richmond.

We have heard to day of a complete
victory gained by General Jackson over
General Milroy west of this place - we
have not learned the particulars.

My health continues good
and appetite strong. Yesterday I
bought two hens gave 75 cts for the
pair - ate one for dinner & supper
yesterday - and now have 3 good eggs
from them. Who can beat that?

Love to all

affly

Willie -

Direct -

Wm. H. Peck

Assist. Surg. 2^d Va. Cavalry

Ewell's Division

Stanardsville

Green Co. Va.

I have opened this merely to
state that I received a letter
from Sir John May 5.

It came to me while I
was sitting in my tent with
a frying pan of bacon before
me and a cake of bread
beside, eating my supper
when my Irish servant
sat with elbows on his knees
looking at me.

I was very glad to hear
from home, but sorry to
know you all are so much
excited. I have heard better
news of our fighting since
the fall back from York
and think Richmond
may yet be saved.

Let us hope on —

W.

(William Hope Peek)

#20

3 1/2 pp inc

Cavalry Camp, Elk Run
Rockingham Co Va
May 10, 1862.

Dear Ma.

I suppose every time I have a good opportunity for writing you wish me to avail myself of it - and as this is one I will comply with your desire. The day after my return from Gordonsville where I wrote my last letter to you, we started out on one of the hardest sort of marches - going down the valley toward Winchester 10 or 15 miles and then crossing the mountain in the night along a bridle path and over a mere bed of rocks - while the weather was real wintry - the wind blowing as cold as in February and all of us shivering tho' wrapt in blankets & in a hollow - so that our camp fires could not be seen and slept on the ground an hour or so - resuming our march about sunrise down the other side of the mountain. We stopped at a small ??? seven miles above the town of Madison C H. where we were taken care of by the people of the neighborhood for two or three days - We left that place one morning about daybreak and had the nicest sort of a breakfast served out to us by the good ladies of Madison C.H., who seemed to be very much please with the appearance of our regiment, tho' there were 3 or 4 companies on detached service.

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We have heard of the scene of Battles above Wmsburg but not the final result - I am exceedingly anxious to hear of the Hamptonians and specially Brothers Johnny & Eddie and Uncle George. I hope Sis will write at once - if the Yanks don't succeed and get to Richmond.

We have heard today of a complete victory gained by General Jackson over General Milroy west of this place - We have not learned the particulars.

My health continues good and appetite strong. Yesterday I bought two hens 75 cts for the pair - ate one for dinner & supper yesterday and now have three good eggs from them. Who can beet that ?

Love to all
Afficty
Willie -

Direct -
Wm H. Peek
Assist. Surgn. 2n Va. Cavalry
Ewell's Division
Stanardsville Green Co. Va.

(William Hope Peek)

20 pg 2

I open this merely to state that I received a letter from Sis dated May 5 it came to me while I was sitting in my tent with a frying pan of bacon before ~~me~~ me and a cake of bread beside , eating my supper while my Irish servant sat with elbows on keens looking at me.

I was very glad to hear from home, but sorry to know you all are very much excited. I have better news of our fighting since the fall back from York and then Richmond may be saved Let us hope on -

W

Martinsburg 1st May 24

Dear Ma.

See how near Maryland we are - here gallantly our army has cleared the valley of Yankees. Oh, we have completely swept them out - Jackson was everywhere - untiring and energetic - The men cheered him with the greatest enthusiasm and rolled back the tide of invasion like an avalanche.

We have taken about 1500 prisoners and any quantity of everything - among them breast plates.

I write this very hastily in a very kind and most excellent lady's home - There are a great many Union people here - Banks went thru Winchester & this place in a perfect waltz - our cavalry pursuing & our artillery playing on his flying army - The 2^d bore a prominent part - and heard the balls whistle around my head. We had two fights one at Front Royal - where our 18th Maryland completely annihilated the Yankee 18th Maryland. We killed & wounded & captured the entire regiment. At Win-

Chester on Sunday morning the ball opened about
4 1/2 o'clock and by 6 1/2 the whole place, batteries
and all - stone fences included - which were
charged by our men - ~~and~~ ^{were} captured - and our
men marching thru the streets lined with smiling
young ladies bearing water & plates loaded with
refreshments. It was a complete surprise to the
Army & the citizens of the town - No one had
any idea of Jackson's approach till he was down
on them like an avalanche.

Just think in 3 days the whole valley has been
cleared and not a single Yankee - save prisoners
remains this side the Potomac.

Where we will go, or what we will do now
remains to be seen - we can't tell.

I have been & am well - Love to all
Willie

Direct your letters
to Gordonsville Va.
1st Va. Cavalry.

(William Hope Peek)
47

2 pp ink

Martinsburg Va. May 26 [1862]

Dear Ma,

See how near Maryland we are - here gallantly our army has cleaned the valley of Yankees. Oh, we have completely swept them out - Jackson was everywhere - untiring and energetic - the men cheered him with the greatest enthusiasm and called back the tide of invasion like an avalanche

We have taken about 1500 prisoners and any quantity of everything - among them breast plates -

I write this very hastily in a very kind and most excellent lady's home - There are a great many union people here.

Banks went thro' Winchester & this place in a perfect route - our cavalry pursuing & our artillery playing on his flying army - the 2n bore a prominent part - and heard the balls whistle around my head. We had two fights one at Fort Royal - where our 1st Maryland Completely annihilated the Yankee 1st Maryland. We killed wounded & captured the entire regiment. At Winchester on Sunday morning the ball opened about 4 1/2 o'clock and by 6 1/2 the whole place batteries and all stone fences included which were charged by our men - were captured - and our men marching thro' the streets lined with smiling young ladies bearing waiters & plates loaded with refreshments. It was a complete surprise to the army & the citizens of the town - No one had any idea of Jackson's approach till he was down on them like an avalanche.

Just think in 3 days the whole valley has been cleared and not a single Yankee - save prisoners remains this side the Potomac.

Where we will go, or what we will do now remains to be seen - we can't tell.

I have been & am well - Love to all
Willie

Direct your letters
to Gordonsville Va.
2n Va. Cavalry

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1862: June-Dec.

Folder 4 of 9

Camp near Harrisonburg Va

June 17 1862.

Dear Ma.

Since I wrote last from Brown's Gap soon after our two days fight with the armies of Fremont and Shields - the Yankees have retreated down the main valley about 50 miles, while our cavalry brigade followed them up and is now camped here.

Throughout this whole campaign General Jackson has shown himself to be one of our first Generals not only in fighting qualities, but in the possession of as much knowledge of Strategy as any other. When he was at ~~Prattburg~~ Winchester & Charlestown, way down almost to the very banks of the Potomac, he received news that Front Royal on our right flank had been captured by Shields and that Fremont was forcing his way towards Strasburg. So as to completely hem him in. But old Jack was too smart a fox for such men as they - tho' Shields is considered one of the best of the Federal Generals. We immediately began our retreat sending the prisoners and captured property ahead, but always keeping them close to the main body of the Army - the cavalry & one battery being in the rear.

Between Winchester and Strasburg we lost about one or two hundred stragglers and burned 45 wagons we had captured for want of teams to haul them away. At Strasburg we came upon Fremont for the first time - we drove back his advance early in the morning and waited all day for him to attack us but he neglected to do so and we marched on our retreat towards Woodstock which we reached in about 12 hours. Just after we left Strasburg while marching along the road at night they made a dash at our rear and threw our cavalry in utter confusion; some of them behave most shamefully. The whole thing was owing to the carelessness of Genl. Geo. Stuart who commanded the cavalry for he had posted no rear guard or any thing of the kind to give us any notice of the approach of the enemy. Likewise at Woodstock the next day there was an attack on our cavalry from the woods which put them in utter confusion owing to the same cause. After that Stuart was removed from the command of the cavalry and Ashby was placed in command of three regiments of cavalry with a fine battery attached and hence forward every thing on our rear went along most smoothly. We retreated on very leisurely till we got beyond Harpersburg on our march.

We had a rear guard this time and in they came to give notice of the approach of a large force of Yankee cavalry with an attempt to cut off our wagon train - but Ashby formed us for a charge and when the Yankees came in sight off we dashed right at them and such a rattle you never heard off. We captured the Colonel acting Brigadier General, major, two captains and forty odd privates. Ashby however was not satisfied with this, but sent on ahead for some infantry and artillery which came with General Ewell. The infantry filed off from the road into the woods where they met the Yankees and signally routed them with a loss of 300 killed & wounded and about 50 on our side, including General Ashby. The Yankees lost their commander wounded and taken prisoner. This little fight was on Friday evening and lasted about one hour.

Saturday we had no fight - Sunday we advanced towards Port Republic where there was a bridge to be crossed - & that too in the possession of the enemy. General Jackson got across by himself in the midst of the Yankee force and putting on the air of one of their own officers suggested that the artillery be moved to another position wh. they did - and our men charged, took the cannon & secured the bridge. Then we returned to whip Fremont who was coming in on our rear. We cleared him out General Milroy

(Yankee) said they lost 1500 to 2000 - Our loss was about 50 killed & 100 or so wounded. Shields' army was only a short distance off but across a river and were compelled to lay by all the while - This day's fight was by Evell's Division. Evell has behaved very gallantly and shown himself to be a good soldier. The next day we crossed the river and chased Shields' army about 10 miles capturing 7 pieces of artillery and 450 prisoners - killing and wounding any quantity. Our loss was larger than the day before, yet not very heavy.

Now they are retreating down the valley bag & baggage. We have taken many prisoners horses & wagons on their retreat - and when Jackson comes up with his reinforcements we will finally clear them all out. I shall never expect for this army to go into Maryland. Write to me at Harrisonburg and Eordsville too. I have received only one letter since I left Richmond - ~~I shall~~ I am still a little unwell but as we are doing nothing it does not hurt much. Love to all - Tell sis to write to me frequently.

Waller

(William Hope Peek)

21

4 pg ind

Camp near Harrisonburg VA
June 17 1862

Dear Ma.

Since I wrote last Brown's Gap soon after our two day fight with the armies of Freemont and Shields - the Yankees have retreated down the main valley about 50 miles, while our cavalry brigade followed them up and is now camped here.

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(William Hope Peek)

21 page 2

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Willie

22

Hanover Junction
July 11 1862.

Near Ma

Here we are up to our eyes
in the rain, camped in the woods
about half a mile from the Rail Road.
It seems to be the general impression
among the members of the regiment that
we will remain in this vicinity for
some time - a sort of picket force to guard
the rail road from incursions of the
enemy in the direction of Friedrichsburg.

Day before yesterday I spent in Ashland
and if I had then known as much
about the running of the cars I should
have spent it at home.

Ashland is a beautiful place fixed
up as a kind of summer resort. There
is yet one boarding house there which
accommodates persons with meals and
lodging - and very good eating too. I don't
suppose they charge more than 2 or 2 1/2^d
per day.

D. Almond was very much pleased

with his visit to Richmond, and says
he doesn't wonder at my great anxiety
to get to such a nice home as that is.

The things you sent were most acceptably
and thankfully received - but I am sorry to
say I ate so much that I was made
quite sick.

Our Surgeon is anxious to get to Richmond
for a day and after he goes and returns
and if we still remain hereabouts
I may get there - He is going to exchange
into another regiment as the Col. of this does
not like him, and he is very unpopular
with the officers and men. I am afraid
they have the same feelings towards me.

If Pa feels able I hope her will to
get all the political influence possible to
bear upon my application for a transfer

Love to all.

Willie

Direct letters to
Hanover Junction

Soldier's letter

Cash Surg. 7th Regt
2d Vol. Inf.

Junction Va

July 12. 1862

due 10

Mrs Janette M. Peck

Richmond

Va

(William Hope Peek)
22

Hanover Junction
July 11, 1862

Dear Ma

2 pg ink

Here we are up to our eyes in rain camped in the woods about half a mile from the railraod. It seems to be the general impression among the members of the regiment that we will remain in this vacinity for some time. A sort of picket force to guard the rail was from incursions of the enemy in the direction of Fredericksburg.

Day before yesterday I spent in Ashland and if I had then known as much about the running of the cars I should have spent it at home.

Ashland is a beautiful place fixed up as a kind of summer resort - there is yet one boarding house there which accomodates persons with meals and lodging - and very good eating too. I don't suppose they charge more than 2 or 2 1/2\$ per day.

Dr. Almond was very much pleased with his visit to Richmond and says he doesn't wonder at my great anxiety to get to such a nice home as that is. The things you sent me were most acceptable and were most thankfully received but I'm sorry to say I ate so much that I was made quite sick.

Our Surgeon is anxious to get to Richmond for a day and after he goes and returns and if we still remain hereabouts I may get there - He is going to exchange into another as the colonel of this does not like him and he is very unpopular with the officers and men. I am affraid they have the same feelings towards me. If Pa feels able I hope he will to get all the political influence to bear upon my application for a transfer.

Love to all
Willie

Direct letters to Hanover Junction

Gordonsville Va July 16 1862.

Dear Ma-

Just as we had settled down at the Junction and I began to think there would be some chance of my getting to Richmond for a day or two - these troublesome Yankees began to stir in Culpeper Co - and we were accordingly compelled to stir too - and took up our line of march for this place. This time we did not pass Mr. Vest's and consequently I did not see Mary - but at Louisa Ct. I spent good part of a day with one of my college chums who is married and keeping house there. I had a first rate dinner and was at the same time protected from a drenching rain.

I think we will move on farther toward the Yankees & camp some where in Orange Co or possibly as far as Culpeper. Then I shall see Mr. Houseworth himself and can pay him that small debt in person.

When you write let me know what, if any, ~~progress~~ progress has been made in the matter of my transfer. I shall not expect much - but when Congress meets next month in all probability I may do something with Mr Garland's assistance.

I am tolerably well - No news -

Yours - affctly

Willie

Soldier's letter
Assist. Surgn W. H. Peck
27 Cavalry.

02
10



Mrs Janette M. Peck,
Richmond,
Virginia.

(William Hope Peek)
23

Gordonsville Va July 16 1862

1 pg ink

Dear Ma -

Just as we had settled down at the Junction and I began to think there would be some chance of my getting to Richmond for a day or two - these troublesome Yankees began to stir in Culpepper Co - and we were accordingly compelled to stir too - and took up our lines of march for this place. This time we did not pass Mr. Vests and consequently I did not see Mary - but at Louisa C.H. I spent good part of a day with one of my college chums who is married and keeping house there. I had a first rate dinner and was at the same time protected from a drenching rain.

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I am tolerably well - No news -

Your Affecty
Willie

Camp near Orange Ct.
July 20 1862

Dear Ma

Thanks to the Yankees I
have been once more to that delightful
place Orange Ct. via partaken of the
bountiful hospitality of Mr. Housenorth.
I took supper breakfast & dinner there and
staid all night spending a nice time
eating the very best and drinking
nice port wines. It seems Mr. Housenorth
must have consulted my tastes in
preparing the dessert for she had baked
custard, and I did full justice to it.

Our skirmishing in Orange has
resulted in the death of 4 or 5 and the
capture of about 40 or 50 Yankees. We
lost not a man but had one very
dangerously wounded in the bowels. He
may be dead now.

I am making a fresh effort and
in another direction to get a transfer.
I have written to Dr. Valierson at Farmville

to see if I could get him enlisted in my
favor. Really I begin to despair of ever
accomplishing anything and am only
praying the war may soon end that
all this may be over. But what pleasure
can it be to us to go back to a home so
desolate as ours must be. —

We have a large Cavalry force
here under General Robinson from the
balley and I believe Jackson is bringing all
his army to this section of country.

We have against us a picked General -
Pope - and there will be some fighting
done soon.

There is nothing new now -

affectionately
Willie

I find no H.
his bill was 20¢

(William Hope Peek)
#24

Camp near Orange C.H.
July 20, 1862

2 pg ink

Dear Ma -

Thanks to the Yankees I have been once more to that delightful place Orange C.H. and partaken of the bountiful hospitality of Mr. Houseworth. I took supper breakfast & dinner there and staid all night - spending a nice time eating the very best and drinking nice port wine. It seems Mrs. Houseworth must have consulted my tastes in preparing the desert for she had baked custard, and I did full justice to it.

Our skirmishing in Orange has resulted in the death of 4 or 5 and the capture of about 40 or 50 Yankees. We lost not a man but had one very dangerously wounded in the bowels. He may be dead now.

I am making a fresh effort and in another direction to get a transfer. I have written to Dr. Taliaferro at Farmville to see if I could get him enlisted in my favor. Really I begin to despair of war accomplishing any thing and our only praying the war may soon end that all this may be over. But what pleasures could be to us to go back to a home so desolate as ours must be. -

We have a large Cavalry force here under General Robinson from The Valley and I believe Jackson is bringing all his army to this section of country. We have against us a picked General Pope - and there will be some fighting done soon.

There is nothing new now -

Affecty
Willie

I paid Mr. H.
his bill was 20\$

Camp of Cavalry Brigade
Near Orange Ct. July 22.

Dear Mr.

Here we are still at our
same camp and in striking distance
of Mr. Houseworth's. Yesterday I rode into
town in the afternoon intending to take
supper with Mrs H and return about 9
o'clock, but I was taken round to see
a young lady very highly recommended to
me for a wife. That visit kept me in town
till 11 o'clock and I concluded to remain
all night and partake of a nice breakfast
in the morning.

It seems to me Mrs H. is such an excellent
woman - a good wife & housekeeper endowed
with so much good common sense that I
would be willing to take almost anybody she
might recommend for a wife. The young
lady in question surely is of very attractive
personage, and I think I could see in her
face the evidences of much good nature &
amability. She sings and plays on the
piano - possesses a very rich voice, and I

am informed is very finely educated. Her form and figure are almost faultless, but I would have her face a little prettier, of her domestic qualities it is enough to say she is recommended by Mrs H. and is one of her favorites in town. Her father keeps or did keep a Dry Goods store, in partnership with a bachelor who died last spring in Florida and left all his property to this gentleman's children. He has decidedly the prettiest residence in the whole town; and the house is very nice, furnished, I think the religion of the family is divided between the Methodist & Presbyterian Churches. Now what is her name? Miss Mary Robinson. I think I must take every opportunity to cultivate her acquaintance & if I like her ask her to marry me, what if I should do so, and practice medicine here at Orange CA after the war is over? This seems to me about as good a place as any section & have yet met with in my extensive travel over this section of the state.

What the Yankees are going to do here remains yet to be seen. Genl Jackson is unoccupied not any far from here with quite a considerable force, and has reinforcements continually coming on. When the battles to come off - the Yankee General Pike may well look to his laurels.

I received a letter from Sis forwarded from the Junction to Gordonsville. She makes my mouth water for some of those nice apricots and I wish there was some way by which you all could send me some. I shall have to forego the pleasure of eating them.

Miss Sizzie West wrote to me that she had invited Sis & Jennie to join a party on a visit to the Natural Bridge. If she would like to go I will be very much pleased to pay her expenses and hope Bro Eddie will go with her. I shall draw (if I want it) two months pay in a day or two - and as you have paid the whole cost of my saddle & horse I shall have no big draws to make on it. I hope Sis can take such a trip as that and that Bro Eddie will return by way of Staunton & Charlottesville & then she can see the institutions in Staunton & the University. It would cost her about 40 or 50%. By the way Pa-

ought to take such a trip as that.
If he could have fine weather all
the time it would do him a great
deal of good.

I can't write to Dr. Semple for any aid.
I would be no use whatever - I don't belong
to his party. I shall be content to remain
as I am now till Congress meets, and
then I'll try to get Mr. Garland to interest
himself in my favor.

I know of nothing of interest to write
about - Love to all. If Bro Eddie &
Charlie are compelled to join any company
they had better go into Elliott's Battalion
for duty in the City. Tell them to look
out - they will be very strict in Richmond
with the conscripts. Charlie could be a
member & still work.

Willie

Direct letters to
Gordonsville.

(William Hope Peek)

#25

Camp of Cavalry Brigade
Near Orange C.H. July 22

Dear Ma.

Here we are still at our same camp and I in striking distance of Mr. Houseworth's. Yesterday I rode into town in the afternoon intending to take supper with Mrs. H. and return about 9 o'clock, but I was taken round to see a young lady very highly recommended to me for a wife. That visit kept me in town till 11 o'clock and I concluded to remain all night and partake of a nice breakfast in the morning.

It seems to me Mrs. H. is such an excellent woman - a good wife & house keeper endowed with so much good common sense that I would be willing to take almost anybody she might recommend for a wife. The young lady in question surely is of very attractive personage - and I think I could see in her face the evidences of much good nature & amiability. She sings and plays on the piano - possesses a very ~~sweet~~ voice and I am informed is very finely educated. Her form and figure are almost faultless, but I could have her face a little prettier. Of her domestic qualities it is enough to say she is recommended by Mrs. H. and is one of her favorites in town. Her father keeps or did keep a Dry Goods Store in partnership with a bachelor who died last spring in Florida and left all his property to this gentlemen's children. He has decidedly the prettiest residence in the whole town ! and the house is very nicely furnished. I think the religion of the family is divided between the Methodist & Presbyterian Churches. Now what is her name? Miss Mary Thompson. I think I must take every opportunity to cultivate her acquaintance & if I like her ask her to marry me. What if I should do so, and practice medicine here at Orange C.H. after the war is over? This seems to me about as good a place as any other I have yet met with in my extensive travels over this section of the state.

What the Yankees are going to do hereabouts remains to be seen. Genl. Jackson is encamped not very far from here with quite a considerable force, and has reinforcements continually coming on. When the battles do come off - the Yankess favorite Pope may well look to his laurels.

I received a letter from Sis forward from the Junction to Gordonsville. She makes my mouth water for some of those nice apricots and I wish there was some way by which you all could send me some. I shall have to forgo the pleasure of eating them.

Miss Lizzie West wrote to me that she had invited Sis & Junie to join a party on a visit to the Natural Bridge. If she would like to go I will be very much pleased to pay expenses and hope Bro. Eddie will go with her. I shall draw (if I want it) two months pay in a day or two - and as you have paid the whole cost of my saddle & horse I shall no big draw to make on it. I hope Sis can take such a trip as that and that Bro. Eddie will return by way of Staunton & Charlottesville & then she can see the institutions in Staunton & the University. I would cost her about 40 or 50\$. By the way Pa ought to take such a trip as that. If he could have fine weather all the time it would do him a great deal of good.

(William Hope Peek)

25 pg 2

I can't write to Dr. Lemper for any aid. It would be no use whatever - I don't belong to his party. I shall be content to remain as I am now 'till Congress meets and then I'll try to get Mr. Garland to interest himself in my favor.

I know of nothing of interest to write about - Love to all. If Br. Eddie & Charlie are compelled to join any compy. they had better go into Elliott's Battalion for duty in The City. Tell them to look but - they will be very strict in Richmond with the conscripts. Charlie could be a member & still work.

Willie

Direct letters to
Gordonsville

Barboursville Orange Co

Aug. 1, 1862

Dear Pa.

I suppose you would like to know where you can get some nice fresh butter for 50 cts a pound, as I understand it is about a dollar or perhaps more in Richmond. Well Dr. Almond's brother who has been here on a visit, can send you some at that price. He lives near Lynchburg keeping store, and goes there "nearly" every week with butter and says he can put it on the Canal boat there to be sent to Richmond by Express, wh, will add a cent or two to the pound. I told him you would write to him and order some. Perhaps he would agree to send it to you, say every 2 weeks. His post office is "Charlemont, Bedford Co. Va." and I think if you all feel like rating butter Bro. Ino. had better write to him in reference to it. He is a very nice man & perfectly fair in his dealings. Name is Wm Almond. I told him you would write to him if you wish any.

I think I wrote to ^{you} in reference to getting some cloth from the clothing bureau in Richmond. I hope you will see about it & write to me. as this same gentleman has a contract with a factory & thinks he can furnish me some at a reasonable price. I will want a good thick jacket, pants and a nice well lined overcoat plenty long and with a good full heavy cape. —

We have been moving about a great deal but never going very far - & now we are about to move again. I can give no information about general movements, but think we must have a battle pretty soon.

I have had a fresh accession of sickness the last day or two, but believe I am getting better now.

I am informed that the conscript Law will be enforced pretty rigorously and hope if it is not too late that Bro. Eddie has joined one of the Companies in Elliott's Battalion for City duties - That is the best command he can go in if he can't do something better Charlie had better do it too if he can still be detailed on his present work - The pay in that command is 20¢ more than in any other and good barracks will be furnished the men.

You will continue to direct letters to Gordonville.

Love to all -

Willie

(William Hope Peek)
#26

Barbourville Orange Co.
Augs. 1. 1862

1 1/2 pg pencil

Dear Pa

I suppose you would like to know where you can get some nice fresh butter for 50 cts a pound, as I understand it is about a dollar or perhaps in Richmond. Well Dr. Almond's brother who has been here on a visit, can send you some at that price. He lives near Lynchburg keeping store, and goes there nearly every week with butter and says he can put it on the canal boat there to be sent to Richmond by Express, wh, will add a cent or two 15 the pound. I told him you would write to him and order some. Perhaps he would agree to send it to you, say every 2 weeks. His post office is (Charlemont, Bedford Co. Va.) and I think if you all feel like eating butter Bro Jho. had better write to him in reference to it. He is a very nice man & perfectly fair in his dealings. Name is Wm. Allmond. I told him you would write to him if you wish any.

I think I wrote to you in reference to getting some cloth from the clothing bureau in Richmond. I hope you will see about it & write to me. a this same gentleman has a contract with a factory & thinks he can furnish me some at a reasonable price. I will want a good thick jacket, pants and a nice well lined overcoat plenty long and with a good full heavy cape. -

We have been moving about a great deal but never going very far - & now we are about to move again. I can give no information about general movements, but think we must have a battle pretty soon.

I have had a fresh accession of sickness the last day or two, but believe I am getting better now.

I am informed that the Conscript Law will be inforced pretty rigorously and hope if it is not too late that Bro Eddie has joined one of the companies and Elliott's Battl. for City duties. That is the best command he can go in if he can't do something better. Charlie had better do it too if he can still be detailed on his present work. The pay in that command is 20\$ more than in any other and good barricks will be furnished the men

You will continue to direct letters to Gordonsville.

Love to all -
Willie

Camp near Barboursville

Orange Co. August 5.

Dear Abner. Here we are still enduring the listless inactivity of camp life. The enemy are not far off but it seems he is very slow to move. We are probably as near or nearer to him than any other regiment in our army and yet we seem to live in the most complete indifference.

The war news that is so common ~~is~~ rumor in our dull camp. I am so tired of this living that any conversation would be a small one that would induce anybody to exchange with me. In the morning I prescribe for some 25 men and then thro' the day have only to looll about in complete idleness. True I have a few books but they have lost their

(William Hope Peek)
27

Camp near Barbounville
Orange Co. August 5

3 pg ink

Dear Ma,

Here we are still enduring the listless inactivity life - the enemy are not far off but it seems he is very slow to move. We are probably as near or nearer to him than any other regiment in our army and yet we seem to live in the most complete indifference.

As for news there is scarcely a rumor in our dull camp - I am so tired of this living that any compensation would be a small one that would induce any body to exchange with me. In the morning I prescribe for some 25 men and there thro' the long days have only loll about complete idleness. True I have a few books but they have lost their powers to interest me. At present too I am some what lonesome. Dr. Almond has gone home and the you will perceive I am some what along in my mess.

The weather too has been exceedingly hot the past few days. The green friut we sometimes get keeps me always sick for too much like a child I cannot possibly restrain my appetite.

This country around here is exceedingly fertile - framld be a real pity for the Yankees to get in here. Just opposite our camp is the most maginficent crop of corn I ever saw in my life.

Just before our Surgeon left in a conversation he had with the Col. the latter paid me some very high compliment. Till then I thought he hade a very small opinion of me. I think it almost certain I shall be much better pleased with our coming Surgeon than the former one. He will be much more poplar with the men of the regiment.

I am writing on my dining table and Frank tells me to take my dinner while the water is cooléd - so I must close - with love to all -

I feel some anxiety about Bros. Eddie Charlie & David & the conscrip law- They had better in Elliott's Battalion

Willie

Near Gordonsville

August 15-

Dear Ma.

I will now

more particularly to get you to have
a book of mine sent to a friend
of mine to whom I have lent
it. The book is "Neill & Smith's
Compend of Medicine". Put it up
in ~~a~~ bundle & send by Express
marked W. Bro. Nelson, Care of
C. W. Price Bank of Virginia
Spynchburg Va. -

We are now in the same
old camping ground we occupied
before the battle.

Jackson has been largely reinvigorated.
but as we are far from the
infantry I have not seen any
acquaintance; if indeed any
have joined this army.

I am still sick but I don't
mind it much. As soon as
our Surgeon comes I want to get
sent to a Hospital in Richwood
and then I can stay home a
week or two. I shall make a des-
perate effort - and if I succeed
you may expect me in a few
days - say a week or 10 days.

Our Colonel is almost sick.
When I do get there I intend to
work all the time for a transfer
to Herkital -

This is nothing new. I
have just finished making
appetizers and they are
now cooking.

I can see no good reason for
being so uneasy about Gerry - He
is all safe & you'll hear from
him in good time -

Affectly,

Willie.

(William Hope Peek)
28

Near Gordonsville
August 15

2 pg encl

Dear Ma,

I write now more particularly to get you to leave a book of mine sent to a friend of mine to whom I have lent it. the book is "Neill & Smith's Compend of Medicine." Put it up in a bundle & send by Express marked Dr. Jno. Nelson Care of C. W. Price Bank of Virginia Lynchburg Va. -

We are now in the same old camping ground we occupied before the battle.

Jackson has been largely reinforced - but as we are far from the infantry I have not seen any acquaintance, if indeed any have joined this army.

I am still sick but I don't mind it much. As soon as our Surgeon comes I want to get sent to a Hospital in Richmond and then I can stay home a week or two. I shall make a desperate effort and if I succeed you may expect me in a few days - say a week or 10 days.

Our colonel is absent sick. When I do get there I intend to work all the time for a transfer to Hospital.

There is nothing new. I have just finished making apple dumplings and they are now cooking.

I can see no good reason for being so uneasy about Georgy. He is all safe & you'll here from him in good time -

Affecty,
Willie

Florence, Ala.,

Sept 8th 1862.

My dear Ma,

I am still in Florence; but where you are I cannot tell. I hope this letter may reach you. When I think of the trouble you have seen and the anxiety you have experienced since I last saw you, or even, since I last heard from you, I am pained to the very depths of my heart.

I hope you have considered me always as safe; but where is Charlie and Willie and all. They, Oh! where are they? And brothers Jimmy and Eddy - those who have been marshaled to direful battle within hearing of home. What has become of them? frequently shoots across my mind and fills me with such unnatural feelings. Because I cannot hear from home, I am restless and uneasy. Because I do not know whether the brothers I have left behind have fallen in battle; whether every thing I hold dear has been wrested from me, I cannot tell how I should feel or what I should feel do. Every day I have more and more a feeling of revenge for past and present injuries, that would almost light the North in a blaze from the Ohio to the Lakes and from the Mississippi to Cape Cod.

Our present successes elate me with joy. The prospect of entering their country fills me with delight. They have made our daughters tremble and our mothers weep tears of bitterness; but Oh what terrible

Sept 13th have commenced College
and am in good health & plenty to
do -

retribution shall be visited upon them if
God is willing! I might, if I were inclined,
attempt to draw the picture of wretchedness
they have brought on many of the families
they leave in their ruinous course through
the South; but no pen can depict the depths
of the misery that shall be their portion,
when our army shall invade their Country
and every one is looking forward to
that event as of no distant date.

The army of the West is defeated
in its every object; the army of the East
is utterly ruined and humbled in
at Washington. What other plan, then, is there
for us than to concentrate our forces
for a grand invasion of their Country?
But I will confine myself to the news
of my immediate neighborhood. Huntsville
as you know is evacuated; there has been
a battle fought there a host of little con-
sequence. A division of the enemy are at
Athens completely cut off by our forces.
Coulter has been evacuated, Tuscum-
bia has received the summons to surren-
der, and I am under the impression
that under cover of last night they
evacuated the place without a fight.
Hence we are clear of Yankees once
more. They have concentrated at
Corinth for a struggle, I think, but on
the approach of Genl. Price will retire to
Memphis. I can now get a letter to you
frequently; but how shall I get one from

you? Write to me and direct to Aberdeen
Mississippi, from that point I think I
can get.

But now so far as I am concerned I
am just in this position: The College opens
to-morrow, the Trustees want me to remain
although there is hardly anything for me
to do. I have promised to remain, and am
now living with Mr. G. W. Foster, the president
of the Board and the soul and spirit of
the Institution. But the Conscription law
will soon be in force here; then I shall
have a chance to enter the army.
Let me know how things stand at home so
that I can tell what to do. If I leave
Florence again I shall certainly go

[2 Sept 1862 / 3]

to Richmond. But when I go to Richmond
it will not be in my former capacity or
leaning upon former friends; but it will
be with recommendation of high respectability
and as a citizen of the State of Alabama
I suppose Sis is with you where ever you
are, and Figgie and aunt Mollie -
Oh! how I want to see them - Little
Jesse & Tommie & Willie are crowd
upon my thoughts - How do I know, but
that they are fatherless? In that case
they would be doubly dear to me.

But why should I anticipate? I
will not. All are as I left them -
Give my love to them. I stand in
health and other matters "in statu quo"
Your Aff. Son G. W. P.

Write Sis to Fannie & Aunt Fanny - And where
is that packet on - Has God answered
her prayers or has he also fallen?

to Richmond. But when I go to Richmond
I will not be in my former capacity or
leaning upon former friends; but I will
be with recommendation of high respectability
and as a citizen of the State of Alabama.
I suppose this is with you where ever you
are; and Fogie and Aunt Mollie -
Oh! how I want to see them - Little
Jesse & Tommie & Willie are crowd
upon my thoughts - How do I know, but
that they are fatherless! In that case
they would be doubly dear to me -
But why should I anticipate? I
will not. All are as I left them -
Give my love to them. I stand in
health and other matters "in statu quo"
Your Aff. Son
G. M. J.

(George Meridyth Peek)

18

4 pg ink

Florence, Ala.
Sept 8th 1862

My dear Ma,

I am still in Florence, but where you are I cannot tell. I hope this letter may reach you. When I think of the trouble you have seen and the anxiety you have experienced since I last saw you, or even, since I last heard from you I am pained to the very depths of my heart.

I hope you have considered me always as safe, but where is Charlie and Willie and all. They, Oh where are they? and brothers Jonny and Eddy.- thoes who have been marshaled to drieful battle within hearing of home. What has become of them? Frequently shoots across my mind and fills me with such unnatural feelings. Because I cannot hear from home I am restless and uneasy. Because I do not know whether the brothers I have left behind have fallen in battle, whether every thing I hold dear has been wrested from me, I cannot tell how I should feel or what I should do. Every day I have more and more a feeling of revenge for past and present injusties, that would almost light the light the North in a blaze from the Ohio to the Lakes and from the Mississippi to Cape Cod.

Our present successes elate me with joy. The prospect of entering their country fills me with delight. They have made Our daughters tremple and our mothers weep tears of bitterness, but oh what terrible retrobution shall be insited upon them if God is willing! I might, if I were enclined, attempt to draw the picture of wretchedness they have brought on many of the families they live in their ruineus course through the South, but no pen can depict the depeths of the misery that shall be their portion, when our army shall invade their country and every one is looking forward to that event as of no distant date:

The army of the West is depealted in its every object, the army of the East is utterly ruined and hemmed in at Washington What others plan, then, is there for us than to concentrate our forces for a grand invasion of their Country.

But I will confine myself to the news of my immediate neighborhood. Huntsville as you know is Exacavated, there has been a battle fought there a bouts of little consequence. A division of the enemy are at others completely cut off by our forces. Courtland has been evacuated. Tuscumbia has received the summons to surrender, and I am under the impression that under cover of last night they evacuated the place without a fight. Hence we are clear of Yankees once more. They have concentrated at Corinth for a struggle, I think, but on the approach of General Price will retire to Memphis. I can now get a letter to you frequently; but how shall I get one from you? Write to me and direct to Aberdeen Mississippi, from that point I think I can get.

But now so far as I am concerned. I am just in this position. The College opens tomorrow, the Trustees want me to remain although there is hardly anything for me to do. I have promised to remain, and am now living with Mr. G.W.Foster, The president of the Board. and the soul and spirit of the Institution. But the Conscript law will soon be in force here, then I shall have a chance to

(George Meridyth Peek)

18 pg 2

enter the army. Let me know how things stand at home so that I can tell what to do. If I leave Florence again I shall certainly go to Richmond. But when I go to Richmond 'twill not be in my former capacity or leaning upon former friends, but it will be with recommendation of high respectability and as a citizen of the State of Alabama. I suppose Sis is with you where ever you are, and Pegie and Aunt Millie - Oh! how I want to see them - Little Jesse & Tommie & Willie all crowd upon my thoughts - Now do I know but that they are fatherless! In that case they would be doubly dear to me.

But why should I anticipate? I will not. All are as I left them. Give my love to them. I stand in health and other maters as "in Statu quo"

Your Aff. Son

GMP.

(ON SIDE MARGIN LAST PAGE)

Give love to Jennie & Aunt Judy- and where is that gallant son- Has God answered his prayers or has he also fallen?

(TOP OF SECOND PAGE)

Sept 13

Move commenced College and am in good health & plenty to do-

Surfing Hill Sept 17 1852

My dear friend

I have been so much occupied with
my work that I have not had time to write to you
as long as I would like. I am glad to hear
that you have not been at all ill and
will be well soon. I have not heard from
John Henry -
I believe he is in the general quarter master in
Birmingham his address is Broad St, corner of
12th St. I have not forgot to write you
in the month of June from your letter
and how sad you are and when you
are in all of those battles I hope not
and from David - he is in the
and all, write me a long letter and tell me
all the news. I do want to see you
so badly that I am in your again I hope
so. I did get a letter from you last week
the first one I have gotten
since he left Norfolk. I was so glad I
did not know what to do. I
have not seen you since
he left Norfolk, how did he look, and all a

Dear Mother we are all well the winter
has been very pleasant at the house I have
done up some packages of sundries and
now I am ready but have not time to do
more I will write to you soon I hope
I will see you all soon I have not
heard from you for some time I
do want to see them so badly I do not know what
to do I will write you a long letter and tell me all the
news all that are unwell and I hope we are all
well many will go to school the first of next month
at 11 o'clock I am sorry her husband died a short
time ago he was very well he is dead I
did not hear from her for some time her husband
he has a teacher in the school I am sure
I am sure the government has passed the law
Richmond let me to write to me, with course if you
go to Richmond please come his head and
care of him for me I do want to see him
so badly my love to all, Ann and Betty
your dear friend Sally

(letter to Mrs. Peek from her
sister Sally)

2 pg pencil

Spring Hill Sept 12th 1862

My Dear Sis

I have wished and waited looked for a letter from you I wrote to Murill in asking her to get a letter from you and send me tho has not done it, if you will write and send your letter Mr John Uerdy Fallin, he is in the general quarter master in Richmond his address is Broad St, Corner of 18th St. please do not forget this my dear sis I do want to hear from you all so bad by how are you all and where is your brother in all of those better I hope not and poor Daniel where is he and Bro James and all, write me a long letter and tell me all the news. O I do want to see you all so badly that never see you all again I hope so, O sis I got a letter from my dear Porty last week the first one I have gotten since he left Norfolk. I was so glad I did not know what to do we get the mail now have you seen my boy since he left Norfolk, how did he look write me all about him ere ever all well the Yankees have not disturbed us they have liberated some of our neighbors of negros and hogs fouls but have not been to see us yet, we look for them everyday, please dont let the children forget me Tommie and Jesse will not I know, kiss them all for Aunt Sally, hug and kiss cousin and all for me tell them I do want to see them so badly, I do not know what to do, an write me a long letter and tell me all the news, all that was wounded and killed, we are all well Nancy will go to school the first of next month, at Mrs Canny Dawning her husband did a short time in the army she is deeply distressed, I did love him dearly he gave Nancy her books he was the teacher in the family Jenny will do the same do you ever hear master George if he is in Richmond tell him to write to me, ask Cousin if Tommy goes to Richmond please comb his head and take care of him for me I do want to see him so badly my love to all Ann and Betty

Your dear friend Sally

Richmond Sept 18th

Dear Friend

Your interesting and
welcome missive reached us mon-
day night and though we endeavor-
ed to comply with your request, not
to delay long; I'm afraid will not be
able to interest you much.

We felt peculiarly and particularly
sad for several days past - and look-
ing forward with fearful anticipa-
tion to the issue of the expected
battle at Fort Mifflin. Magruder thinks
from the movements of the enemy
together with some valuable in-
formation given him by a deser-
ter, will intend to make a desperate
effort to get to Richmond through

Booktown, and has consequently asked
for large reinforcements, which are going
down every day. A Florida regiment
encamped just across the street from
more than a week, left yesterday noon
sup. When they received marching order
these loud hurrahs deafened the air,
I never saw men who seemed more
anxious to fight. I feel very little
doubt of our success, if an attack is
made; but, Willie, you know I've an
idolized brother and many friends
who will be exposed to imminent
danger, and my thoughts will visit
uncontrollable persisting wanderings
these loved ones. I've tried to keep
basely engaged, as work I think is
one of the best safeguards against
the ingress of sad thoughts; but all

my efforts have proved ineffectual.
But I must not write longer in
this strain to you.

You are mistaken in supposing
we expected you would the second
time delay leaving Richmond ~~day~~
I don't consider your reason for
waiting the ~~first~~ first time "pro-
long" at all, or because you're "weak."
I'm awfully glad you're from it. But I
hope it will not be years before
we will welcome you to old Virgi-
Don't wait to make a fortune
but come occasionally while you
are making it. I regret you left quite
soon. We've had so many of
our old friends to see us, it has
seemed almost like the happy
old times. Dick Hawkins and

Richmond Sept 18th

Dear Friend

Your interesting and
welcome missive reached us mon-
day night, and though we endeavor-
ed to comply with your request, not
to delay long, I'm afraid will not be
able to interest you much.

We felt peculiarly and particularly
sad for several days past, antici-
pating forward with fearful anticipa-
tion, to the issue of the expected
battle at Yorktown. Magruder thinks
from the movements of the enemy
together with some valuable in-
formation given him by a deser-
ter, will intend to make a desperate
effort to get to Richmond through

Yorktown, and has consequently asked
for large reinforcements, which are going
down every day. A Florida regiment
encamped just across the street for
more than a week, left yesterday
morn. When they received marching order
these loud hurrahs deafened the air,
I never saw men who seemed more
anxious to fight. I feel very little
doubt of our success, if an attack is
made; but, Wilkie, you know I've an
idolized brother and many friends,
who will be exposed to imminent
danger, and my thoughts will with
uncontrollable persistency wander to
these loved ones. I've tried to keep
basely engaged, as work I think is
one of the best safeguards against
the ingress of sad thoughts; but all

my efforts have proved ineffectual.
But I must not write longer in
this strain to you.

You are mistaken in supposing
we expected you would the second
time delay leaving Richmond. ~~day~~
I don't consider your season for
waiting etc. ~~first~~ first time "first"
loud at all, or because you ^{are} weak &
wavering; far from it. But I
hope it will not be years before
we will welcome you to old Virgi-
nia. Don't wait to make a fortune
but come occasionally while you
are making it. I regret you left quite
so soon. We've had so many of
our old friends to see us, it has
seemed almost like the happy
old times. Dick Hawkins and

Servant: Mr. Jay, Henry Causcy a mid-
last but not least Mrs Stone and
William & Mrs Stone regretted very much
you left before she came up. But all
have left now, except Mr. Servant, and
he leaves to-morrow.

Henry came up to get a commission,
and succeeded in getting the appoint-
ment of second lieutenant in the
Confederated army. Since you left
he went down to Mr. Hawkins house
with Dash, and shot at the pickets.
They had to make a hasty retreat &
could not ascertain the result but
have heard since two were killed.
A few days after he shot another one
off. From these achievements to President
Davis promoted him. If you had
gone to have seen Davis you would
received an appointment.

[18 Sept. 1862/5]

Don't let anyone read my
letters.

Henry was so busy he didn't go down
to see Mat. He denounces her long
stay in Norfolk bitterly - I don't ex-
pect it was more than his denun-
ciation, or a little envious, because
Capt Gayler has the advantage of
playing the lover, but I believe Mat
has a rival this visit, Miss Slepoy
of Petersburg, a very beautiful and
accomplished young lady, whom
the Captain admires very much,
but not rich, which is said to be
Mr Gayler's attraction. Mat wrote
last week to remain longer, and
Mrs Purish has given her consent
for her to stay as long as she wishes
and I think it will be some time
before we'll have the pleasure of
her company.

I've not succeeded in getting a school
yet, and there is not much prospect at
present of my succeeding. Last week
Mr. Gurnet of King & Queen offered me
a situation, but my deficiency in man-
ly services prevented my taking it. I'm not
so anxious now as I was a few weeks
ago; brother William has been detailed
from his company to take a situation
in Richmond that ^{will pay him} several hundred
dollars. His salary and brother's will
make us quite comfortable, and I shall
be almost glad if I have to stay
home. But ~~brother~~ hasn't come up
yet, and his delay makes us all very
uneasy. I'm afraid Magruder is keep-
ing ^{it} because of the anticipated at as soon as I wished. But I must
close. Several who were detailed have
been call in their companies.

Willie, have you forgotten the letter
from Mr. Mann, I read to Mr. Parrish
the evening before you left. He
has arrived to perform those "human-
itarian services" he was so much afraid
would be neglected in his absence.
He and aunt-Mann are living
here with Mr. Parrish. The poor old man
has been very sick for the past two
weeks, and ^{very} little like he'll ever
be able to perform even an "human-
itarian service" for any one.
One school. I had no idea it was
so late. Mr. Robin call to night after
tea and stayed very late, which de-
ferred me from commencing writing
it as soon as I wished. But I must
give you a few messages from
the family and close.

Mr. Williams said she has gotten so well
and strong, she will be able to make
enough money to pay you for your
kind attention; when you come back,
Mrs. Watson wants to know what you
mean by, saying she must not take ad-
vantage of Mr. Williams illness. I said
she did write soon she is fast asleep
now. sleeping - & all send there-
best love to you.

Now Willie, we not written a long
letter, which I never do, and for which
I'm sure you are very glad - as you
have thrown down the gauntlet
we taken it up. but I want you to
write me a long one in reply, and
write soon. For good, for evil.

Give my respects to your brother &
excuse this hurriedly written scrawl.
Now I must make my bed & retire.
Yours sincerely, 1830

(war news of Yorktown)
(Written by Lizzie)
1 TO WILLIE

8 pg ink

Richmond Sept 18th

Dear Friend,

Your interesting and welcomed missive reached me monday night, and though I've endeavored to comply with your request, not to delay long", I'm afraid I'll not be able to interest you much. I've felt peculiarly and particularly sad for several days past - Am looking forward with fearful anticipation, to the issues of the expected battle at Yorktown. Magruder thinks from the movements of the enemy together with some valuble information given him a deserter - ? ? intends to make a desperate effort to get to Richmond through Yorktown, and has consequently asked for large reinforcements, which are going down every day. A Florida regiment encamped just across the street for more than a week, left yesterday morning. When they received marching orders there loud hurrahs deafened the air, I never saw men who seemed more anxious to fight. I feel very doubt of our success, if an attack is made; but Willie, you know I've an idolized brother and many friends who will be exposed to immediate danger, and my thoughts will with uncontrolable persistency wander to these loved ones. I've tried to keep busily engaged as work I think is one of the best safeguards against the of sad thoughts but all my efforts have proved ineffectual. But I mustn't write longer in this strain to you.

You are mistaken in supposing we expected you would the second time delay leaving Richmond and I don't consider your reason for waiting the - first time "frivolous" at all, or because you were "weak & recovering", from it. But I hope it will not be years before we will welcome you to old Virginia. Don't wait to make a fortune but come occasionally while you are making it. I regret you left quite so soon. We've had so many of our old friends to see us, it has seemed Almost like the happy old timer. Dick Hawkins and Servant Mr. Ivy, Henry Causey, And last but not least Mrs. Stores and Willie. Mrs. Stores regreted very much you left before she came up. But all have left now, except Mr. Servant, and he leaves tomorrow.

Henry came up to get a Commission, and succeeded in getting the Appointment of second lieutenant in the Confederate army. Since you left he went down to Mr. Hawkins house with Deek, and shot at the pickets. They had to make a hasty retreat & couldn't ascertain the result - but have heard since two were killed. A few days after he shot another nose off. From these achievements President Davis promoted him. If you had gone to have seen Davis You would received an appointment

Don't let anyone read my letters.

Henry was so busy he didn't go down to see that ? ? He denounces her long stay in Norfolk bitterly - I don't expect it was more than life demonstration or a little envious, because Capt. Taylor has the advantage of playing the lover but I believe that has a rival this visit, Miss Slessy of Petersburg, a very beautiful and accomplished young lady, whom the Captain admires very much, but not rich, which is said to be Mr. Taylor's attraction. Mat wrote last week to remain longer, and Mrs Parrish has given her consent for her to stay as long as she wishes, and I think it will be sometime before we'll have the pleasure of her company.

I've not succeeded in getting A school yet, and there is not much prospect at present , of my succeeding. Last week Mr. Garnet of King & Queen offered me situation, but my deficiency in music prevented my taking it. I'm not so anxious

(Lizzie)

1 pg 2

now, as I was a few weeks ago brother Williams has been detailed from his company to take situation in Richmond that will pay him several hundred dollars. His salary and brother's will make us quite comfortable and I'll be almost glad if I have to stay home but brother hasn't come up yet, and his delay makes us all very uneasy. I'm afraid Magruder is keeping mind because of the anticipated attack. Several who were detailed have been call in there companies.

Willie have you forgotton the letters from Mr. Mann, I read to Mr. Parrish the evening before you left he has arrived to perform thos "humble services" he was so much afraid would be neglected in his absence. He and Aunt Mann are living here with Mr. Parrish. The Poor old man has been very sick for the past two weeks, and looks very little like he be able to perform. even an "humble service" for any one.

One oclock I had no idea it was so late - Mr Robins sale to night after tea and stayed very late, which detured me from commencing writing as soon as I wished. But I must give you a few messages from the family and close -

Mrs. Williams said she had gotton so well and strong, she will be able to make enough money to pay you for your kind attention, when you come back. Mrs. Watson wants to know what you mean by saying she mustn't take advantage of Mrs. Williams illness. Sis saw she ill write soon - she is fast asleep now snoring. And all send there best love to you.

Now Willie, I've not written a long letter, which I never do, And for which I'm sure you are very glad.- As you have thrown down the " gauntlett" and I've taken it up. But I want you to write me a long one in reply , and write soon. "Do good for evil." Give my respects to your brothers I excuse this hurriedly written senale. Now I must make my bones retire

Yours sincerely. Lizzie

1

Florence, Ala.
Sept. 19th 1865

My dear Sis,

It has been many a long, long day since I used to receive your own peculiar letters - for it seemed to me that your letters above all others gave me the news about home. And during this time I must still content myself with remaining here and not hearing anything from my dear home folks, many of whom have been exposed to so

(my?)

many dangers, while others
have suffered death from anxie-
-ty. I always wished to share
the troubles and dangers of
my brothers and relatives, and
if I had thought that coming
here would have separated
me from them in this time
of so great need and danger,
neither the argument of health
and inability, nor that of
interest could have ever
induced me to leave them.

But, now, since I am here,
and have long since found
out the necessities of me left
to his own resources, and

have calmly viewed the
position to which a man can
attain by dint of his own labor
and talent, and since I
cannot serve my country
now in the field (for two im-
portant reasons) I shall
endeavor to bring all things
together, and to bend all
circumstances, to my own ad-
vancement in those things
which pertain to peace, that
I may be more accomplished
and better prepared to act
when the war shall close.
My dearest Sir I can't even
tell whether you have another

brother beside me - Have they
all perished for their country
- An enviable fate, I think,
me; for I, indeed, am much
less & worthy to survive them
than they were. But I cannot
hear, and all my friends
tell me I ~~do~~ take philoso-
phically - and so I do; for
I shall not think otherwise
than that Willie is in a
hospital in Richmond,
Charly in Talbot's shop,
and bro Eddy & Lonny in
the army and in good
health; Pa and Ma, Piggie
& family, Aunt Mollie and
family, Aunt Judy and family
(except that valiant boy, whose
deeds of valour shall be related
with pride to others in coming years -
but he is not dead - only in the army.)

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

(George Meridyth Peek)
19

4 pg ink

Florence Ala.
Sept. 19th 1862

My dear Sis,

It has been many long, long day since I used to receive your own peculiar letters - for it seemed to me that your letters above all others gave me the news about home. And during this time I must still content myself with remaining here and not hearing anything from my dear home folks, many of whom have been exposed to so many dangers, while others have suffered death from anxiety. I always wished to share the troubles and dangers of my brothers and relations, and if I had thought that coming here would have separated me from them in this time of so great need and danger neither the argument of health and maklity, nor that of interest could have ever enduced me to leave them.

But, now, since I am here, and have long since found out the necessities of one left to his own resourses, and have calmly viewed the position to which a man can attain by dint of his own labor and talent, and since I cannot serve my Country now in the field (for two important reasons) I shall endeavor to bring all things togeather, and to bend all circumstances, to my own advancement in those things which pertain to peace, that I may be more accomplished and better prepared to act when the war shall close.

My dearest Sis I can't even tell whether you have another brother beside me. - Have they all perished for their country. An enviabile fate, I think to me, for I, indeed, am much less worthy to survive than they me. But I cannot hear, and all my friends tell me I toke Phulosophically-and so I do; for I shall not think otherwise than that. Willie is in a hospital in Richmond, Charly in Talbot's shop and bros. Eddy & Tommy in the army and in good health; Pa and Ma, Peggie & family, Aunt Mollie and family, Aunt Judy and family (except that valiant boy, whose deeds of valour shall be related with pride to others in coming years. - but he is not head - only in the Army!)

(NO ENDING TO LETTER)

In Georgia

Sep 20.

Dear Ma

We have had a hard
fought a terrible battle near Sharpsburg.
McLaws Division I understand went
into the fight late in the day. I cannot
hear if any of our boys are killed or
wounded. The fight lasted all day &
the enemy were driven from the field
& sent a flag of truce to bury their
dead. The following day we evacuated
and quite a number of our wounded
have fallen into their hands.

If any of our friends have been wounded
so that they could not walk I fear they
fare very badly. I have not heard of any.
I only pray that Bro Eddie & Billy are
both safe & unhurt. I shall try to find
out & if they are, give them all the
assistance I possibly can.

I have received one letter from

Mum. She said I could get clothes from
the Government store. Please to write ~~if~~
the prices so. Secure me a good over-
coat-jacket & pants. I shall try every
way possible to get to Richmond soon.

Our regiment has been & is now
worked almost to death. Always the
~~case we have been hurried out with, but~~
of course can't be spared.

My anxiety for Bro Eddie & Billy
has brought the war to my heart in
a painful degree. Let us pray for
the best.

Affectionately in haste

Willie.

(William Hope Peek)
29

In Bivouac
Sep 20

1 2/3 pg pencil

Dear Ma,

We have left Maryland after a timble battle nears Sharpsburg. McLaw's Division I understand went into the fight late in the day. I cannot hear if any Hamptonears are killed or wounded. The fight lasted all day & the enemy were driven from the field & sent a flag of truce to bury their dead. The following day we evacuated and quite a number of our wounded had fallen into their hands.

If any of our friends have been wounded so that they couldnot walk I fear they fare very badly - I have not heard of any I only pray the Bro. Eddie & Billie are both safe & unhurt. I shall try to find out & if they are, give them all the assistance I possibly can. -

I have received one letter from Sis. She said I could get cloths from the Government store. Please to write the prices ec. Secure me a good overcoat - jacket & pants. I shall try every way possible to get to Richmond soon.

Our regiment has been & is now worked almost to death. Always the case. We have been promised rest, but of course we can't be spared.

My anxiety for Bro. Eddie & Billie has brought the war to my heart in a painful degree. Let us pray for the best.

Affectionitely in haste

Willie

Camp 32nd Va Regt.

Near Winchester

Oct. 2nd 1862

My darling sis,

not until
the other day, had we heard
one word from our sweet-
home & dear loved ones
there. I was much surprised
to hear that you had not
received but one letter
since we left: for I have
written every opportunity
& think you all might
write oftener if you would
put your letters in the
office - directed to the
Army of Northern Virginia,
Deming's Brigade, 3rd Regt.
Va. Hols. Camp of E. B. Montague
and we will get them.
The mail of the different
divisions are forwarded

Indeed Sis, the Moun-
tains are very beautiful
but not so much so, as
to cause me, for one mo-
ment, to forget the loved
ones at home. I might
say, with truth, that there is
hardly a moment that passes
by but that my thoughts are
turned to thee & those dear
friends which a benevolent
Father has blessed me with.
May God bless & protect
them & grant us the blessed
privilege of meeting once
again.

Give my love to Dear Mat
and tell her I want to see
her so much. Tell her I've
pass through the Iron & Lead
hill at Shanpstring & hope
to return in long to see
you all.

Eddie is quite well
& stands the marches
nobly. His wound has
got in entirely well.
He is writing also.
Henry Sinclair has re-
covered from his wound
also & says if you see
Bro. Sinclair or any of
his family tell them he
is well & getting along
very well.

I heard that Bro. Willis
was dead, but as it is not
reliable, don't say nothing
about it so that his Mother
can hear it.

Give my love to Sis &
all the folks & tell
Dissin to write, we can
get paper to write on
Goodbye. I would write
more but the carrier is

writing -

Have you heard from
Bet + Sue lately. Send
my love to them when
you write again + tell Sue
I heard some good news
of her in other days.

Write soon to your affec-
tional + loving

↳ Burtin

(Eddie Peek)
2

3 1/2 pg pencil

Camp 32 inf VA Regt.
Near Winchester
Oct 2nd 1862.

My Darling Sis,

Not until the other day, had we heard one word from our sweet home & dear loved ones there. I was much suprised to hear that you have not received but one letter since we left - for I have written every opportunity. I think you all might write often if you would put your letter in the office - directed to the Army of Northern Virginia Jemmis Brigade, 32nd Regt- VA Vols care of E. B. Montague and we will get them -

The mail of the different Divisions are fowarded indeed Sis the mountains are very beautiful but not to much so, as to cause me, for one moment, to forget the loved ones at home - I might say with truth that, there is hardly a moment that passes by, but that my thoughts are turned to thee & thoes dear friends which a benevident father has blessed me with may Gods bless & protect them & grant us the blessed privalge of meeting once again -

Give my love to deer Mat. and tell her I want to see her so much. Tell her I've pass - through the Iron & lead in hail at Sharpsburg & hope to return Err long to see you all -

Eddie is quite well & stands the marches nobly - His wounds has gotten entirely well - He is writing also - Henry Sinclare has recovered. from his wound also & says if you see Jno. Sinclair or any of this family tell then he is well & getting along very well -

I heard that Bro. Willis was dead; but as it not reliable, dont say nothing about it - So that his mother can hear it.

Give my love to Sis & tell the folkes & tell Jessie to write- we cant get paper to write on. Good bye.- I would write more but the carrier is waiting.

Have you heard from Bet & Sue lately. Send my love to them when you write again - & tell Sue. I heard some good news of her the other day.

Write soon to you affectionate & loving

Bubba.

Camp near Charlestown

Oct 6 1862.

Dear Ma.

I received a letter from Sis while out on a scout a few days since and was very much relieved to hear that Bro Eddie and Billy were both unhurt. Since I received that I have seen the Old Dominion and learned that the 32^d behaved most gallantly but suffered very severely. I have not been able to see any of them since the battle. The cavalry is always out on the picket posts some distance from the main body of the infantry and it almost impossible for me to get away even for a day to see them.

I have been enabled to get very few things indeed in the way of shoes for you all, but doubt not that I can get a tolerable supply after a while by picking up a pair here & there

I got a pair of gaiters for Pigeon for which I paid \$1 a very nice article (could get no smaller size) and several pairs of white stockings & some for Loretta at the old prices - also a pair of shoes for the baby.

I wish I could hear what my overcoat &c would cost if I got it from the Government store in Richmond. Please let me know. I might get cloth up here somewhere but would be very much troubled getting the articles made. Cold weather is coming on pretty fast and I am anxious to get my outfit. Perhaps if I get them in Richmond I may get a farewell to come for them. That is my only chance for seeing you all.

Joe Hane is now commander of his regiment and has no surron so that is my best chance for a promotion. I want you to send him the enclosed letter. I don't know where he is but suppose you do.

My health is now very good indeed and I believe I am fattening - but this service becomes more and more unpleasant to me every day. If Dr. Almond & I could be together by ourselves I would be much better pleased but at present that can't be & my mind is rather unpleasant. The W. by the way has been married since you all saw him in Richmond.

The army is rapidly recruiting and issuing shoes and clothes, preparing for winter. The Yankees are in Maryland doing the same thing I recon. When our regiment was on picket a day or two ago near Warps Ferry we could see them very actively at work. We may have another great battle before winter, but it is doubtful.

I would like to hear from home often. direct to Winchester. If Bro Johnny will take a trip to Florence to look after Gen's pay half or more of the expense.

I think I see ... of the other
which he ...
some member of the
family - Has he done ...

(William Hope Peek)
30

Camp near Charlestown
Oct 6 1862.

3 pg ink
Dear Ma,

I received a letter from Sis while out on a scout in few days since and was very much relieved to hear that Bro Eddie & Billie were unhurt. Since I received that I have seen the Old Dominions and learned that the 32n behaved most gallantly but suffered very severely. I have not been able to see any of them since the battles. The cavalry is always out on the picket post some distance from the main body of the infantry and it almost impossible for me to get away even - for a day to see them. -

I have been unable to get very few things indeed in the way of shoes for you all, but doubt not that I can get a tolerable supply after a while by picking up a pair here & there. I have gotten a pair of gaiters for Pigeon for which I paid 3\$ a very nice article - (could get no smaller size) and several pairs of white stockings & Jenette at the old prices - Also a pair of shoes for the baby.

I wish I could hear what my overcoat & ec. would cost if I get it from the Government store in Richmond. Please let me know. I might get cloth up here some where but would be very much troubled getting the articles made. Cold weather is comming on pretty fast and I am anxious to get my outfit. Perhaps if I get there in Richmond I may get a furlough to come for them. That is my only chance for seeing you all.

Joe Ham is now commander of his regiment and has no Surgeon so that is my best chance for promotion. I want you to send him the enclosed letter. I don't know where he is but suppose you do.

My health is now very good indeed and I believe I am fattening - but this service becomes more and more unpleasant to me every day. If Dr. Almond & I could be together by ourselves I would be much better pleased but at present that can't be and my mess is rather unpleasant. The doctor by the way has been married since you all saw him in Richmond.

The army is rapidly recruiting and issuing shoes and cloths, perpairing for winter. The Yankees are in Maryland doing the same thing I recon. When our regiment was on picket a day or two ago near Harpers Ferry we could see them very actively at work. We may have another great battle before winter, but it is doubtful. I would like to hear from home ofteⁿ direct to Winchester. If Bro Johnny will take a trip to Florence to look after George I'll pay half or more of the expenses.

(Missing)

I lent Joe Phillips 20\$ the other day when he was down here which he promised to pay over to Daniel or some member of the family - Has he done so?

y
Florence, Ala.

Oct 7th 1862

My dear Sis,

A few evenings ago I was taking my evening-walk down the main street of Florence, when, to my surprise, I was called over by a young lady in company with Miss Mollie Ragland. I was much surprised at the occurrence, since it was no other than Miss Mollie Rustwell, a more modest lady I never saw, and the intimate friend of Miss Mollie R. "Did you know that she had received a letter?" "Why no. I am glad to know that she has heard from her friends - in Virginia I suppose?" But to my astonishment she produced a letter in the fac simile hand writ of my dear Sister; and there she had

not heard from her brother
for so long a time - You might
have seen the color come
and go, you might have seen
joy sparkle in my eyes all
full of tears of joy when I dis-
covered that all were safe -
How glad I was you cannot
imagine, nor can I describe it.

But at the same time I was deep-
ly affected by the death of
Henry White, than whom I never
saw a more magnanimous man,
a man who entirely fulfilled
that passage of scripture which
says - "Whosoever thy hand fasteth
to do, do it with all thy might".

I was also surprised that you had
not heard from me since march.
Why I have written frequent letters
and thought I succeeded in
getting them through the enemy's lines.
One of them I gave to a Lieutenant

on Genl. Rosecrantz's staff, who was
accustomed to get letters through
to a sweet heart he had in
Western Virginia. He promised to
do it for me by the very first flag
of truce - he offered his services and
I could not refuse. And you
may think it strange I should
be so intimate with a Yankee of-
ficer - I, who am a military man
in the community and a Southerner.

But I will explain in one word, for
I have much to write to night.
He was sent from Rosecrantz to
Genl. Mitchell at Florence with dis-
patches, and called on Mrs Foster
for his dinner, Mr. Foster being
then a prisoner in Tusculum (I
am living now at Mr. Foster's). A lady
of course was much frightened
and could not refuse him. I was
immediately sent for, and the true
policy being to treat him politely, I sent

into^d conversation and found him
to be a gentleman. He was a
Virginian by birth; but educated at
West Point where he imbibed his
consolidating principles; and, while
yet unlagged, he accepted a position
on Rosecrank's staff. When I told
him I had not heard from home
for so long, he offered to get a letter
through for me and also for Miss
Georgie Foster (by the way a beautiful
girl); and she would have sent
too had not I doubted the
genuineness of the man. But enough
of him you have not received a letter
for so long. Then I must give you
some history of myself since July
at least. You will recollect that
I have been forming schemes and
laying plans all of last session
to be consummated in the vacation,
when I expected to become an
officer in the Confederate Army.
In position I have so long pined for.

45
Well with all these expectations and
hopes (I allude also to the pleasure
of seeing you all at home) I started
for the Army at Corinth, thence
to Virginia. It was on the 5th
of July, when, released from my
professional duties here, I took
up my line of march through
the enemy's lines. The large No.
of Yankees stationed at Tusculum,
and the strict vigilance with
which they guarded the passes of
the Tennessee here compelled
me to cross the river nine miles
above Florence. I proceeded thence
towards Courtland, having been
informed that only two or three
companies were there, trembling
exceedingly from the near approach
of our Cavalry under Armstrong,
who held the mountains in
superior force. I stopped at a
friend's plantation that night within
in the lines of the enemy and

6 twenty five miles from Florence.
But here, although I had frequently
assured you that nothing of the
sort should happen, I was tempted
beyond my powers. Ah! how frail
is man when he stands beneath
the destructive fire that flashes from
the eyes a beautiful young lady!
You can now, at least, well judge
what those inviting charms - what
that Siren voice that succeeded
so effectually in seducing me
from the untiring prosecution
of those deep laid schemes by
which I expected to advance to
honor and distinction. 'Twas the
same influence that deprives
ministers of state of the confidence
of their sovereigns and that honor
and renown ~~which~~ ^{with} which they would
fill the world - that plucks the
wreath of victory from the brow of
the warrior and crowns his ad-
versary - that has seduced many

77 Notlemen from the paths of honor
and fame and has deprived
one King of England of his throne.
I can tell it in two words, and,
indeed, my whole story. I saw a
lady. But let me exemplify -
About four miles from Courtland,
in a spacious and handsome
manor, situated on a slight
eminence surrounded by wide
spread acres and flowing cotton
fields, resides an old planter.
One thousand bales of the
"king of the world" is his annual
income, and the luxury and
profusion that surround him
are inviting indeed. The flowers
here seemed to bloom fresher and
to emit sweeter fragrance, and
the groves were livelier, the notes of
the forest choristers were more
melodious than I had ever seen
or smelt or heard in Alabama before.

8. But the sweet ~~words~~ of the daughter's
voice inviting him to stay, caused
the young warrior to pause in
the midst of his career, and beneath
the smiles of the "Belle of the Valley"
to lose sight of the grand object for
which he started out. Day after
day I tarried, and the notes of
the piano supplanted the martial
strains of the trumpet, the sweet,
soft voice of the lady was pre-
ferred to the hoarse command;
instead of martial deeds love tales
were told, and the chatter of the
confusion of the parlor took the
place of the noise of battle and
the rattle; in a word, all was
changed; and pleasure ruled for
the time so that days appeared
like hours to the hero of the battle
of Bethel, when he reclined on
velvet cushions and listened to
the sweet voice. A week passed
and the bolt fell. The Yankee came,
And one evening, when I was loping

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

(George Meridyth Peek)
20

Spq ink

Florence Ala
Oct 7 th 1862

My dear Sis

A few evenings ago I was taking my evening walk down the main street of Florence when to my surprise, I was called over by a young lady in company with Miss Mollie Ragland. I was much surprised at the occurrence, since it was no other than miss Mollie Bushwall, a more modest lady. I never saw, and the intimate friend of Miss Mollie R. "Did you know that she has received a letter?" "Why no. I am glad to know she has heard from her friends - in Virginia I suppose?" But to my astonishment she produced a letter in the facsimite hand writ of my dear Sister' and their she had not heard from her brother for so long a time - You might have seen joy sparkle in my eyes all full-of tears of joy when I discovered that all were safe. - More glad I was you cannot imagine, nor can I describe it. But at the same time I was deeply effected by the death of Henry White, than whom I never saw a more maguanismory man, a man who entirelly fulfilled that passage of scripture which says - Waht ever thy band formost to do, do it with all thy might" I was also suprised that you had not heard from me since march. Why I have written frequent letters and though I succeeded in getting through the enemy's lines. One of them I gave to a Lieutenant on Genl. Rosecrants staff, who was accustomia to get letters through to a sweet heart he had in Western Virginia. He promised to do it for me. by the very first flag of truce; he offered his services and I could not refuse. And you may think it strange I should be so intimate with a Yankee officer - I, who am a Military man in the Community and a Southerner.

But I will explain in one word; for I have much to write to night. He was sent from Rosecrants to Genl. Mitchell at Florence with dispatches and called on Mrs. Foster for his dinner, Mr Foster being a prisoner in Tuscumbia (I am living now at Mr. Fosters) a lady of course and much frightned and could not refuse him. I was immediately sent for, and the time policy being to treat him politley, I entered into conversation and found him to be a gentleman. He was a Virginia by birth; but educated at West Point where he unbided his Consoladating principles; and, while VA. get laggered, he accepted a position on Rosecrants - staff. When I told him I had not heard from home for so long he offered to get a letter through for me and also for Miss Georgie Foster (by the way a beautiful girl); and she would have sent too had I not doubted the genuineness of the man. But enough of him you have not received a letter for so long. Then I must give you some history of my self - since July at least. You will recollect that, I have been forming schemes and laying plans all of last session to be consummated in the Vocation, when I expected to become an officer in the Confederate Army, a position I have so long pined for. Well with all these expectations and hopes (I allude also to the pleasures of seeing you all at home) I started for the Army. at Corinth & thence to Virginia. It was on the 5th of July, when, releasaed from my professional duties here, I took up my line of march through the enemys lines. The large No. of Yankees Stationed at Tuscumbia, and the strict Vigilance with which they guarded the passes of the Tennessee here compelled me to cross the river nine miles above Florence. I proceded thence towards Courtland, having been informed that only two or three Companies were their, trembling exceedingly from the near approach of

our cavalry under Armstrong. Who held the mountians in superior force. I stopped at a friends plantation that night within the lines of the enemy and twenty five miles from Florence. But here, althrough I have frequently assured you that nothing of the sort should happen, I was tempted beyond my powers. Ah! how frail is Man when he stands beneath the destructive fire that flashes from the eyes a beautiful young lady! You can now, at least, well judge what thoes - inviting charms - What that Siren voice that succeeded so effectually in seducing me from the untireing prosecution of those deep laid schemes by which I expected to advance to honor and destinction. 'Twas the same influence that deprives ministers of state of the confidence of their sovereigns and that honor and renown with which they would fill the world - that plucks the wreath of victory from the han of the warrior and crowns his adversary - that has seduced many nobleman from the paths of honor and fame and has deprived one king of England of this throne. I can tell it in two words, and, indeed, my whole story. I saw a lady. But let me excemplify - about four miles from Courtland, in a spacious and handsome mansion, situated on a slight eminence surrounded by wide spred acres and flowing cotton fields, resides an old planter - One thousand bales of the "king of the world" as his annual income, and the luxury and profusion that surround him all writing indeed. The flowers here seemed to bloom fresher, and to emit sweeten flargeance, and the groves were liveties, the notes of the fomest chorrstier were more than I have ever seen or smelt or heard in Alabama before; but the sweet tones of the daughter voice inviting him to stay, caused the young warrior to pause in the mist of his career, and beneath the smiles of the "Belle of the Valley" to lose sight of the grand object for which he started out. Day after day I tarried and the notes of the piano supplanted the material strains of the trumplt, the sweet, soft voice of the lady was preferred to the hoarse command; in stead of material deeds, love tales were told, and the chatter and camp confusion of the parlor took the place of the worse of battle and the melee; in a word, all was changied; and pleasure ruled for the time so that days appeared like hours to the hero of the battle of Bethel, When he reclined on velvet cushions and listened to siver's voice. A week passed and the bolt fell. The Yankee come; and one evening, when I was loping

(REMAINDER OF LETTER MISSING)

Oct
Williamsburg ~~Oct~~ 1862
October 7th 1862

My Dear Aunt
As I have not heard from you since Papa
came home I thought that I would write to inform you that
we are all well, and Papa came home safe, we are getting along
tolerably well, there is not a great many Ladies in Williamsburg
now they have nearly all left here for Richmond, I thought of
coming myself but I could not make up my mind to leave
my parents and sisters, Aunt Peck little brother is the very image
of you he has large black eyes he can walk all about and can
talk a little he is so mischievous, all the children talk about
you very often and say they want to see you, I feel sometimes
like I would just as love die as to live and be parted with
those that I do love so dearly, I feel like if you were here I would
be perfectly contented I very often think about you and your
family and cry about you all Papa very often talks about you
^{with tears on his eyes}
I have a beautiful piece of calico here it would suit you
so well if I could send it to you I would do so it looks so
much like you very time I look at it I cannot help crying
I do wish you had it I shall not make it up I will try and
send it to you if I possibly can Papa says if he could send you
some sugar coffee and tea and such things as he thought that
you would need he would send it to you with pleasure things
are very cheap down here there is not any thing to sell in
Williamsburg but we get go to Fortson's Store and get things
Calico is 18cts per yd better the same Sugar white is per lb 12
100 to 150 per lb coffee is to 1/2 per lb and every thing in proportion
I have been to Hampton once poor Aunt Maggard has lost her
mind Hampton does look dreadful there is not a single house
standing you cannot see any thing but the chimneys standing
Aunt Maggard sends her best love to you all the days with
you please inquire after George for her and when you write
to me let her know how and where she is I say to Uncle
Johnny that he had been to the farm and every thing is very
quiet down there he says that he would have written to you to
day but he thought that as I was going to write that that it would

answer every purpose he says give his respects to Johnny his love
to Aunt Sarah an Aunt Mollie and Sissy and all of the rest
he sends his very best love to you and Mr Peck there has a
been a great many deaths among the citizens of this place
since the Federal army came here namely Doctor Gault
Dr Williamson Mr Southall and a great many children the
scarlett fever has been raging here and it has taken away
a great many children I sit up last night with a corpse and
night before last with a very ill child who is now dead
I suppose you have heard about the fires that we have had
down here there is hardly a night but what there is one or
two fires last night there was a fire very near the poor
old college William and Mary is burned down the clerk
office and several houses and barns and stables and
three mills Ma has been down to Uncle Billys he has been
very kind to us I would have come to Richmond to
morrow but I did not have any where to go and was not able
to pay any board so I thought that I had better stay Ma
says that she is trying to lay in a plenty of provision and
is going to lay and come up soon tell Sissy I have grown
so much that she would hardly know me if she was to see
me I am larger than she was when she left here Ma says
that she never will forget how kind you have been to her
she says that she wishes that she could return it as she says
that she would be as happy to live with you again
but if she never lives with you in this world she hopes
that she will live with you in the next she says that
she is very much obliged to you for your kindness to
Papa she says she hopes that Gods blessings will be with
you all tell little Jesse that we have got a little man
for him to play with him he is now on a stick riding
horse he says that he is and I said Willie I am willing to
Peck come and visit he came and took his little stick
and put it in his mouth and then he put the paper

and said (with Peck) tell Sissy that she must write
to me when you write to me you must be sure and write I
would like very much to hear from you, tell Uncle
Jesse that I am going to write to him but I did not have
time Mrs Fitchett is waiting for this now so you must
let him read this I wish that you were down here with
us or we were up there with you oh I do wish I could
send you my piece of calico nothing would afford me
more pleasure than to make ^{you} a present of it I have
nothing more to tell you a present for my tongue is
tied and I cannot talk much but I hope I will be free
once more I would like to tell you so much Ma and
Pa and all of the children send their very best love to
you and Sissy Cousin Willie Mr Peck and little Jesse
and Uncle Jesse and all Aunt Mary Whitting is living
with us now she sends her best love to your family
we are living at the same place that we were when you
left us at Mr Jerby's he sends his respects to you and
he says will you be so kind as to try and find out wheather
his son Willie Jerby is wounded or not he heard he was
but does not know for certain when you write let me
know who are wounded and killed we heard that the
32 regement was ~~was~~ badly cut up, please write and
let me hear the news please answer this as soon as you
can when Maggie Winebr ~~is~~ expected to
receive a letter from you
you must write
come

as I am in a great hurry I have nothing more to say
at present but remain y^r affectionate friend until
death. Anne & Hope. God bless you all, I would like so
much to see you but if we never meet here on
Earth I hope we will meet in heaven Good bye my dear
friend

Anne Elizabeth H.

answer as soon as you can

[The following text is extremely faint and illegible due to significant fading and damage to the original document.]

(letter from Annie Elizabeth Hope
to her Aunt)
(Annie Elizabeth married Thomas Curle Peek Sr.)

3 1/4 pg ink

Oct.
Williamsburg 7th 1862
October 7th 1862

My Dear Aunt

As I have not heard from you since Papa came home I thought that I would write to inform you that we are all well, and Papa came home safe, we are getting along tolerably well, there is not a great many ladies in Williamsburg now they have nearly all left here for Richmond, I thought of coming myself but I could not make up my mind to leave my parents and sisters, Aunt Peek little brother is the very image of you he has large black eyes he can walk about and can talk a little he is so mischevious, all the children talk about you very often and say they want to see you, I feel sometimes like I would just as live die as to live and be parted with those that I do love so dearly, I feel like if you were here I would be perfectly contented I very often think about you and your family and cry about you all, Papa very often talks about you with tears in his eyes. I have a beautiful piece of calico here it would suite you so well if I could send it to you I would do so it looks so much like you everytime I look at it I cannot help crying. I do wish you had it I shall not make it up I will try and send it to you if I possibly can Papa says if he could send you some Sugar Coffee and tea and such things as he though that you would need he would send it to you with pleasure, things are very cheep down here there is not any thing to sell in Williamsburg but go to Fortress Monroe and get things Callico is 18 cts per yd Cotton the same Sugar 10 to 12 cts per. lb. tea \$1.00 to \$1.50 per. lb. Coffee 10 to 12 1/2 per lb and everything in proportion.

I have been to Hampton once Poor Aunt Maggarett has lost her mind. Hampton does look dreadfull, there is not a single house standing you cannot see anything but chimney's standing Aunt Maggarett sends her best love to you all she says will you please inquire after George for her and when you write to me let her know how and where he is , Pa says tell Uncle Johnny that he has been to the farm and everything is very distroit down there he says that he would have written to you to sooner but he thought that as I was going to write that I would answer every purpose he says give his respect to Johnny his love to Aunt Saurah an Aunt Mollie and Sissy and all fo the rest he sends his very best love to you and Mr. Peek there has been a great many deaths among the citizens of this place since the Federal Army came here namely Doctor Gault, Dr. Williamson, Mr. South all and a great many children the scarlet fever has been raging here and it has taken away a great many children I sit up last night with a corps and night before last with a very ill child who is now dead.

I suppose you have heard about the fires that we have had down here there is hardly a night but what there is one or two fires last night

there was a fire very near us the poor old college William and Mary is burned down the clerks office and several houses and barns and stables and three mills. Ma has been down to Uncle Billy's he has been very kind to us. I would have come to Richmond tomorrow but I did not have any where to go and was not able to pay any board so I thought that I had better stay Ma says that she is trying to lay in plenty of Provisions and is going to try and come up soon tell Sissy. I have grown so much that she would hardly know me if she was to see me. I am larger than she was when she left here. Ma says she never will forget how kind you have been to her she says that she wishes that she could return if she says that she would be happy to live with you again but if she never lives with you in this world she hopes that she will live with you in heaven she says she is very much obliged to you for your kindness to Papa she says she hopes that Gods blessings will be with you all tell little Jessie that we have got a little man for him to play with - he is now on a stick riding horse he says (up horses) and I say Willie I am writing to Peek come and write he came and took little stick and put it in his mouth and then on the paper and said (Wite Peek) tell Sissy that she must write to me when you write to me, you must be sure and write, I would like very much to hear from you, tell Uncle Jessie that I was going to write to him but I did not have time Miss Mitchell is waiting for this now so you must let him read this I wish that you were down here with us or we were up there with you oh I do wish I could send you my piece of callico nothing would afford me more pleasure than to make you a present of it I have nothing more to tell you at present for my tongue is tired and cannot talk much but I hope I will be free once more I would like to tell you so much Ma and Pa and all of the children send their very best love to you and Sissy Cousin Willie Mr. Peek and little Jessie and Uncle Jesse and all Aunt Mary Whitting is living with us now she sends her best love to your family. We are living at the same place that we were when you left us. At Mr. Yerby's he sends his respects to you and he says will you be so kind as to try and find out whether his son Willie Yerby is wounded or not he heard he was but does not know for certain when you write let me know who are wounded and killed we heard that the 32 Regiment was badly cut up, please write and let me know the news please and answer as soon as you can when Maggie

(APP. 25% OF REMAINDER OF THIRD PAGE MISSING)

as I am in a great hurry I have nothing more to say at present but remain your affectionate niece until death Annie E, Hope God bless you all, I would like so much to see you but if we never meet no more here on Earth I hope we will meet in heaven Good bye my dear Aunt

Annie Elizabeth H...

answer as soon as you can

Oct 9th 1862

Camp 32nd Reg^t near Winchester
My dear Darling Sis,

I have been anx-
iously looking for a letter from
home for a long time, nothing would
afford me more pleasure now than
to hear from you all. We are lying in
camp almost wasting away. We
have been here now for nearly two
weeks. I heard today we would move
in a few days, to where I have not
the least idea, the Yankees are all
back the Potomac, so I hope it will
be towards Richmond. I wish Rich-
mond then perhaps I will be able
to hear or see from you. We are
getting bad off for clothes & shoes
I don't know what we will do up
here this winter. I suffer I'm afraid
I have not seen Willie since the
battle of Sharpsburg nor do I

Know where he is. Geo Wheeler who
was wounded in the late fight &
who was left over in Maryland was
paroled & came to the Regt. the other
day. he reports the death of Abner Wood
son of Mrs. Lattin's family. Came
from Baltimore and took a armistice
with them. the rest of the wounded are
doing well. We are all well no news
of interest. best love to all family
Ginnie & Aunt Judge.

Bis

Edgar

(Eddie Peek)
1

1 2/3 pg pencil

Oct 8th 1862
Camp 32nd Regt. Near Winchester

My Own Darling Sis,

I have been anxiously looking for a letter from home for a long time. Nothing would afford me more pleasure now than to hear from you all We are lying in camp almost wasting away. We have been here now for nearly two weeks. I herd today we would move in a few days. To where I have not the least idea. The yankees are all across the Potomac. So I hope it will be towards Richmond near Richmond then perhaps I will be able to hear or see from you. We are getting bad off for clothes & shoes. I don't know what we will do up here this winter suffer I'm afraid. I have not seen Willie ~~the~~ since the battle of Sharpsburg nor do I know where he is. Thos Wheeler who was wounded in the late fight & who was left over in Maryland was ~~paroled~~ & came to the Regt. the other day he reports the death of Abe Wood Some of Woods family came from Balto and took a armistead with them. The rest of the wounded are doing well. We are all well no news of interest best love to all family Ginnie & Aunt Judy

Bro
Eddie

Florence, Ala.,

Oct 19th 1862

My dear Ma,

Mr. Brown, a gentleman of Florence who had been to Richmond without my knowledge, met me on the street some days since and told ^{me} my folks were all well. He had met Mr. Tom Foster, our congressman, on the street in Richmond, who enquired after me. It seems that you had been enquiring of Mr. Foster about home. It delights me to know that Mr. F. will report to you that I am still in Florence attending to my duties in the College, and am well. I was delighted even to see a man who had been to Richmond, and more especially when he could give me tidings of my folks.

I have written frequent letters to you but it seems that none of them have ever reached you. The last letter I wrote ~~has~~ was something of a history of my adventures since the beginning of the vacation in July last. That letter I am sure you have received. So I shall not burden you with any further narration of my actions & down to a few days since; but commencing from the time I entered College again I will give you some ~~instances~~ items.

When the College commenced I lived with Mr. Washington Foster, a brother of the Congressman, a very wealthy man whose loaded table has never experienced the privations of the war in the least. He is the president of the Board of Trustees and in view of the limited salary

of six hundred dollars (\$600) I was receiving from the Board he proposed to board me free of cost. After living at his house for three months, I have finally changed my quarters back to the Old College and eat at Prof. Rice's as formerly. It is due to Prof. Rice for me to say here that he has proved himself to be one of my warmest friends. Being a Virginian himself and imbued with a spirit characteristic of true Virginians he looks upon me almost as a brother springing from the same stock.

But you may wish to know the cause of so extraordinary a change - a change from a family of such influence and affluence to live with the rats and mice - preferring to conform to the habits of those of scantier means, rather than enjoy the luxury and favor of the rich, to leave the finest and most costly furnished house in the county, to inhabit alone an old castle whose vast halls and hollow towers bear no sound in the night, save the shrill whistle of the wind or the voice of the rain and hail beating through its broken windows.

Mr. Foster's family are generally nice people - they are very nice people. There was nothing I could ask for - nothing I could even hint at - but there was a servant to administer to my wants. And I too had the confidence of the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster, as I have before said, are Methodists, and the latter one of the most pious ladies I ever knew. But it was the remarks of one of her sons who is a worthless drunken sot that caused me to bid them farewell for

-ever. They were very much grieved at the occurrence, but are convinced that my action under the circumstances was unavoidable.

They are afraid that that true chivalric spirit and that generous hospitality, for which they say my State is so celebrated, had not been shown towards me in a manner sufficient to impress me, at least, with the spirit of the cotton planter of the South.

You must not feel at all uneasy on this account; for I always act the gentleman to every one, and all who possess a corresponding feeling will know how to appreciate it. If I am ever thrown with those who are so lost to all gentlemanly principle as to return harshness for gentleness or rudeness for politeness, it is not my plan to resent it, but merely to relieve myself of their company; and a man of the very best family may make himself so much of a beast as that his insults and criminations would be no more noticed by a gentleman than the barking of a cur.

My habits and his were exactly the reverse and hence there was no unity of feeling between us. My being in the Old College again to room does not in the least disturb me.

Here I am secluded, as it were, from society and can indulge in study to my heart's content. Here there is no sweet lady like Miss Georgie Foster to notice me in the parlour, after supper to hear her musical voice, no gay visitors to occupy my time in escorting them back to their homes after dark. All is still and quiet here.

Report says that the people in Richmond are suffering for the necessaries of life. Oh how it pains me to entertain the least apprehension that you all are suffering for necessaries! I do not feel, when I think of it, that I can remain here an hour longer. If it is possible I will try and see you next Christmas - I would be delighted to see Willie on the streets of Florence this winter. I have young ladies enough here to occupy his time for some weeks, and, then, I will cross the river with him and present him to the Belle of the Valley, where he can enjoy himself and make any proposition to Miss Sue he pleases, and she, I am sure, will favorably consider it. Oh, I will show him a lady whose father sold last week \$100,000 worth of goods to the Confederate States, and has more money than he knows what to do with.

My friend Miss Mollie has written ^{you} a letter ^{she is going down to} but she wouldn't let me read it. ^{more than wounded.}

Some of the wounded (from Cuba) of Genl. Piche's army will arrive here in a few days - Of course all the news you will have before we get it - I am enjoying good health, but can't brook the idea of staying out of the Army - A letter may reach me if you direct to Florence by way of Campblaid.

I am Yours affly

George

(George Meridyth Peek)

21

4 pp. in 1

Florence Ala.
Oct 19th 1862

My dear Ma,

Mr Brown, a gentlem of Florence who had been to Richmond without my knowledge, met me on the street some days ago since and told me my folks were all well. We had met Mr Tom Foster, our congressman, on the street in Richmond, who enquired after me. It seems that you had been enquiring of Mr Foster about me. It delights me to know that Mr F. will report to you that I am still in Florence attending to my duties in the College, and am well. I was delighted even to see a man who had been to Richmond, and more especially when he could give me tidings of my folks.

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They are afraid that that true chivaluc spirt and that generous hospitality, for which they say my state is so celebrated, had not been shown towards me in a manner sufficient to impress me, at least, with the spirt of the Cotton planters of the South.

(George Meridyth Peek)

21 pg 2

You must not feel at all uneasy on this account; for I always act the gentleman to every one, and all who possess a corresponding feeling with know lion to appreciate it. If I am ever thrown with those who are so lost to all gentlemen principle as to return harshness for gentleness or rudeness for politeness, it is not my plan to resent it, but merely to releive myself of their Company; and a man of the very best family may make himself so much of a beast as that his insults and cuminations would be no more notice by a gentlemen than the backine of a car. My habits and his were exactly the reverse and hence there was no unity of feeling between us. My being in the old College again to room does not in the least disturb me. Here I am seculed, as it were, from society and can indulge in study to my hearts content. Were there is no sweet lady like Miss Georgie Foster to notice me in the parlor after supper to hear her musical voice, no gay visitors to occupy my time in escorting them back to their homes after dark - all is still and quiet here.

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My friends Miss Mollie has written Sis a letter but she wouldn't let me read it - (She is going down to nurse the wounded) Some of the wounded (from Juka) of Genl Price's army will arrive here in a few days - Of Course all the news you will have before we get it - I am enjoying good health, but cant book the idea of staying out of the army - A letter may reach me if you direct to Florence by the way of Cortland.

I am Your Aff
Son
Georgie

Berryville va.
Octr 31.

Dear Ma.

I am at a loss to know why I have not received any letters from home.

I have been daily expecting a letter from Sis for 2 or 3 weeks, yet do not get it - why is it?

I have written frequently to know if I can get any clothes from the store that Dairl is in - but cant get any reply - Please let me know and the prices. Tell Dairl I wrote to him a few weeks ago - but have not heard from him yet. Tell him to write.

I have not seen Bes. Eddie or Billy since we were in Maryland. The army is moving now I can not say where they are.

Ask Brother Johnny if he cant
come to Winchester to bring Bro. Eddie
& myself our clothes, if he needs any.

He might do it without any difficulty.
B. Almonds brother sometimes rides on
horse back all the way from Bedford
to see him. I have said too often
what I need. Overcoat, coat, vest &
pants. of tolerably good thick grey
stuff.

The nights have been quite cold
up here - but I have been sleeping very
warm indeed. I have a tent and it
is quite comfortable.

We have roast beef every day for
dinner & steaks or hash for breakfast -
not eating any supper. Two or three
days we had apple dumplings for
dessert with honey for sauce. We
can generally face tolerably well if
we are out of reaching distance of the
infantry - but whenever they are near
things get very scarce.

Please let me have some
letters from home -

Yours

William

Direct to

Comstock

Aunt Susan & Family.

Munford's Brigade

Winchester, Va.

(William Hope Peek)
31

Berryville, VA
Octr 31.

2 1/2 pg ink

Ma.

I am at a loss to know why I have not received any letters from home. I have been daily expecting a letter from Sis for 2 or 3 weeks, yet do not get it - Why is it?

I have written frequently to know if I can get any cloths from the store that David is in - But cant get any reply - Please let me know and the prices. Tell David I wrote to him a few weeks ago but have not heard from him yet. Tell him to write.

I have not seen Bro Eddie or Billie since we were in Maryland. The army is moving now I cannot say where they are.

Ask brother Johnny if he cant come to Winchester to bring Bro Eddie & myself our cloths, if he needs any.

He might do it without any difficulty. Dr. Allmond's brother sometimes rides of horse back all the way from Bedford to see him. I have said to often what I need. Overcoat, coat - vest & pants - of tolerably good thick grey stuff.

The nights have been quite cold up here - but I have been sleeping very warm indeed. I have a tent and it is quite comfortable.

We have roast beef every day for dinner & steaks or hash for breakfast - not eating any supper. Two or three days we had apple dumplins for desert with honey for sauce. We can generally fair tolerably well if we are out of reaching distance of the infantry - but when ever they are near things get very scarce.

Please let me have some letters from home -

Yours ec.
Willie

Direct to
Wm H. Peek
Ass. Sugn. 2n Va Cavly.
Munford's Brigade
Winchester, Va.

Warrenburg

Sunday Afternoon.

Dear Ma -

When I got to Gordonsville I fortunately met a Captain of my regiment who told me it had been transferred to another brigade - same with the Old Dominion's - and in Longstreets Corps. It was then he said in Culpeper - and I had to come all the way to Staunton to get my horse. I tried the Infantry fashion from there to the place where I left him and made the eight miles in good time & with little fatigue. I am now on my way to my regiment but when I'll catch it I can't tell.

Love to all
Aunt
Miller

Soldiers letter
Asst. Surg. Peets
2 Vabawh



Due

Mrs. Janette M Peets
Richmond
va

(William Hope Peek)
32

Harrisonburg
Sunday Afternoon

1 pg ink

Dear Ma -

When I got to Gordonsville I fortunatley met a Captain of my regiment who told me it had been transferred to another brigade - same with the Old Dominions - and in Longstreet Corps. It was there he said in Culpeper - and I had to come all the way to Staunton to get my horse. I tried the Infantry fashion from there to the place where I left him and made the eight miles in good time & with little fatigue. I am now on my way to my regiment but when I'll catch it I can't tell.

Love to all -
In haste.
Willie

Florence Ala.

Nov. 16th 1862

My dear Sir,

I was much delighted on receiving two of your letters from Mr. Smith, who had the kindness to bring them up to the College to me this morning. I received another letter some days before through the "politeness" of the Hon. Thomas Foster, who was here on a visit ~~at~~ his brother's house. There is hardly any thing in these times of trouble that disturbs me more than the great difficulty of my getting letters to you, while it appears that I am receiving them so often from you. Mr. Foster does not live in Florence, but lives on the other side of the river, and therefore it was almost impossible for me to tell at what time he would leave for Richmond.

Your letters this time are of very great interest to me - one of the 7th & 9th of Oct., the other of the 27th Sept. Not having received Mr. Brown's letter (although I met him on the street, and he told me about my folks) there was something new on every page. Every line seemed to be filled with news, which in other times would be startling, or touched upon family affairs that were extremely pleasurable. Oh how it thrilled me to read them! I was filled alternately with joy and sorrow. I cherished once more the long lost hope of seeing every one of you again safe in the providence of God, and then, in distress, I thought of the loss of so many friends and acquaintances, and the wonderful changes that are rapidly taking place in the land of my

P. S. Tell me what has become of Mary? The last time I heard she was ill. I'm much pleased with Jesse's progress, and, perhaps, will want to bring him out with me to educate. Ask him how he would like to go to the big brother Georgia to the West, or the South west. What has become of Col. J. B. Cary? and the old Williamsburg man, whose name I have forgotten. - G.

people. And when I think of those dear ones that have fought and bled, and of those who fell in driving back the invader, when Richmond trembled before the power of the Northern hosts, I cannot help blaming myself because I was not there to throw my body too between you and the foe. But more than all, your letters seem to partake, in a greater degree than usual, of that loving spirit that has always characterized them, and every one seems to join you in the expression of feelings that almost melt my heart. I was rejoiced to see your well known hand, and my heart throbbled with emotions of gratitude and affection, when I read Pa's own words addressing me in such fond terms; but how could I keep back the tears that filled my eyes, or suppress the deep emotion that almost choked me, when I read, for the first time in my life, lines written by my own mother addressing her son!

If there ever was a time in my life when I blessed the folks at home more than at another it was when I read those letters.

I am pleased to hear that the old 32^d is under "Stonewall" Jackson, and reaping that honor and glory they so well deserve. While I am heartily sorry for the untimely death of all those young men from Hampton I am pleased to hear of their gallant actions on the battlefield.

Col. O'Neal of the 25th Va. Regt. Vol. is here wounded from the army of the Potomac. He was wounded in the battle of Somerses, while holding in check the army of McClellan, Harpers Ferry, in the mean time, falling into our hands. It gives me great pleasure to hear from my old State through

him. To hear him talk about Old Virginia is enough to make me hush. The hospitality, the liberality, the untiring energy, and the unconquerable spirit of the people of Virginia, he says, "have saved the South." Her Executive and state authorities are praised; her generals stand first in honor, rank and greatness, and her soldiers, rallying under the glorious old banner of their native state, have won new and imperishable honors on ever fields, and demonstrated to the world the truth of the expression contained in these words of the poet:

"Sic semper, 'tis the proud refrain
That baffles minions back again".

In two letters that I have written lately I gave you a full history of my adventures since the beginning of last vacation. My visits across the river where I was arrested have always been very pleasant, and the people every where honor and respect me on account of the glorious old state from which I hail. The Misses Harris on the other side of the river seem to be very much pleased with me; and, in general, I am making about as much head with the ladies as a regimental school-master could be expected to do, when other men are making themselves so much superior by their brilliant deeds on the battle field. In one of my letters, (if you have received it) you, perhaps, would expect me to be in love with Miss Sue, but I think she would suit Willie better than me. Miss Mollie is still a dear friend of mine and has lately been rendered still dearer by receiving a letter from you thus being the instrument through which I have heard from home.

By this time you have received her letter in reply, which I hope will tell you how she has spent Christmas. But now I do not know whether I can make the trip at that time; for I will only have two weeks holiday, and if the cars are not running to Decatur it will take me a week to get home and a week to return, which will leave me no time to stay at home.

And now I cannot close without expressing heart-felt sorrow for those noble ones that have perished or been severely wounded in the cause. I often think of Sadie and Menny. Oh! that I could, as with a bound, place myself in your midst to share your trouble. A gallant fellow has Billie shown himself to be. I feel proud of him, and do sincerely wish I was with him to share his dangers and honors. Tell Aunt Judy she has an heroic son. Her prayers were answered this time but she must prepare for the worst.

Give my sincere regards to all the wounded soldiers and remember me affectionately to those in distress. I cannot notice every point in your letter. I will write whenever an opportunity presents itself. Miss Georgie is married! well Joe Hawn is the one that cut out - and I am so glad he has risen to such honor and distinction, and that his wound did not prove fatal. But I am getting to the bottom of my page and must wind up. I will be home Christmas if I can, but it is doubtful. And now my love to Pipie, and Sallie, and Aunt Mollie, and Aunt Judy, and all the old folks; to Jennie, and Mary, and Janet, and all the girls; to Jessie and Tommy and all the boys; and add up all the love you have given to every body and multiply it by 50 and divide it between Pa, me, and yourself. This being done I remain with love to all enquiring friends.

Your loving brother,
Georgie.

(George Meridyth Peek)
22

4 pg ink

Florence Ala
Nov 16 - 1862

My diar Sis,

I was much delighted on receiving two of your letters from Mr Smith, who had the kindness to bring them up to the College to me this morning. I received another letter some days before through the "politness" of the Hon. Thomas Foster, who was here on a visit at this brothers house. There is hardly any thing in these times of trouble that disturbs me more than the great difficulty of me getting letters to you, while it appears that I am receiving them so often from you. Mr. Foster does not live in Florence, but twenty miles on the other side of the river, and there fore it was almost impossible for me to tell at what time he would leave for Richmond.

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of "Virginia," he says "Love saved the, South." Her Executive and state authorities are praised, her generals stand first in honor, rank and greatness, and the soldiers, rallying under the glorious old banner of the native state, have won new and imperishable honor on every field, and demonstrated to the world the truth of the expression contained in these words of the poet.

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Your loving brother
Georgie

(WRITTEN ON 2ND PAGE AT TOP)

PS

Tell me what has become of Mary? The last time I heard she was ill. I am much pleased with Jessie's progress, and, perhaps, will want to bring him out to educate - ask him how he would like to go with his brother Georgie to the West, or the South west. What has become of Lt Col G. B. Cory! and the williamsburg man, whoes name I have forgotten? - G.

Cavalry Camp, Dec 9.

My Dear Sis,

Rather in obedience to
Mia's injunction than that I have any
thing to say I write this morning.

There is one thing however that I can
say - and you all can testify to the truth
of it - and that is the weather is
intensely cold. We manage to get

along tolerably well however with
good fires and plenty of blankets.

The next day after a pretty severe
snow we had to change camp, and
found the ground all covered. We
scraped away the snow and leaves
spread down some clean dry straw
pitched our tent - went to bed &
wrapped up warm.

Perhaps I have not told you of
my pretty little sweet heart at Orney
Ch. and how charmingly she sings
"Kathleen Mavourneen" for me. She
is quite domestic in her habits and
is shoken of more highly by my ac-
quaintances than any one else in
the village

Her father is a successful Dry
Goods merchant of the place - Some
months ago her father's partner
died and left his property to her
and her brothers & sisters.

From what I have seen of her I
think she will make me a very
good partner for life - and if I fail
to get in the regular army after
the war - Orange C. H. will be a most
admirable place to practice at.
I have not in the least committed
myself yet - nor do I know whether
she is disengaged or if she will have
me. -

I send 10¢ - please send me
about a dollar worth of stamps &
use the remainder yourself.

The infantry is so far off & they
are so strict down here that I have
not been able yet to see brother
Eddie. I shall try to get to him soon.

Love to all -

Willie

Direct letters to

Fredericks Hall -

2nd Corp
71st See's Prison

(William Hope Peek)

34

2 pg emb

Cavalry Camp, Decr 9.

My Dear Sis,

Rather in obedience to Ma's injunction than that I have any thing to say I write this morning.

There is one thing however that I can say - and you all can testify to the truth of it - and that is the weather is intensely cold. We manage to get along tolerably well however with good fires and plenty of blankets.

The next day after a pretty severe snow we had to change camp and found the ground all covered. We spread down some clean dry straw pitched our tent - went to bed & wrapped up warm.

Perhaps I have not told you of my pretty little sweetheart at Orange CH. and how charmingly she sings "Kathleen Mavourneen" for me. She is spoken more highly by my acquaintances than any one else in the village. Her father is a successful - Dry Goods Merchant of the place - Some months ago her father's partner died and left his property to her and her brothers & sisters.

From what I have seen of her I think she will make a very good partner for life - and if I fail to get in the regular army after the war - Orange CH. will be a most admirable place to practice at. I have not in the least committed myself yet - nor do I know whether she is disengaged or if she will have me. -

I send 10\$ - please send me about a dollars worth of stamps & use the remainder yourself.

The infantry is so far off & they are so strict down here that I have not been able yet to see brother Eddie. I shall try to get to him soon.

Love to all -
Willie

Direct letters to
Fredericks Hall -
2n Cavalry
Fitz Lee's Brigade

Camp 2 Vabavaly

December 12 1862.

Dear Sis,

I must tell you all what nice friends I have met with near our camp. While at the University, rooming with Mr. Haley he & I went to Richmond to witness the inauguration of the Statue & his sweet heart (now wife) with her sister Miss Emma Long, travelled with us. Well I happen now to be near Miss Emma's home - and have been there twice, remaining all night last night. Besides she has sent me a basket of nice things and otherwise treated me very kindly.

I am sorry however that we have got to leave her to morrow and shall miss many nice presents from her. They are killing their hogs & if I should be near in a few days hence I will get a nice present of Sausage.

My great regret is that I have not Bro. Eddie and Billie along with me to get some of the good things. They always put us as far from the Infantry on account of forage that it prevents all visiting. W. Davies has a brother down there too but he has not been able to visit him. We are having a great deal of sickness now & have had one death in camp.

We changed our camp when the snow was on
the ground & it caused a great deal of sore throats
& some cases of Typhoid Fever. The man who
died was not sick more than 24 hours & we
had no opportunity to send him off. His
disease was congestion of the lungs.

Some say we will go to Essex, some
to Port Royal & some to Suffolk. If the latter
be true I shall pass thro' Richmond.

I would like very much, if you all
are getting tired of Solomon or Bob to have
one of them with me. Tell Pigeon I would give
her first rate hire for Bob. Mention the
matter to Broth - Johnny. At present I have
to be beholden to others and it is very unpleasant.
If I can't get either of those ask Pa if he can
find me one among the Hamptonians in
Richmond. You recollect I wrote some on this
subject while in the Hospital at Manassas
but the circumstances of the case are different
now.

The Yankees shelled Fredericksburg yesterday
The firing was very heavy indeed. We are
20 miles off and of course don't know any
thing of the particulars -

If Broth Johnny can let me
have Solomon mention the subject to

Daniel & fired out if he agrees. He can't get
him back whenever he chooses -

Love to all

affectly

Willie

Direct To - Fitz Lee's Brigade
Fredericks Hall Depot.

(William Hope Peek)

Camp 2n Va Cavalry
December 12, 1862

33

23 pg ind

Dear Sis,

I must tell you all what nice friends I met with near our camp. While at the University rooming with Mr. Haley he & I went to Richmond to witness the inauguration of the statue & his sweet heart (now wife) with her sister Miss Emma Long travelled with us. Well I happen now to be near Miss Emma's home - and have been there twice, remaining all night last night. Besides she had sent me a basket of nice things and otherwise treated me very kindly.

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We are having a just deal of sickness now & have had one death in camp. We changed our camp when the snow was on the ground & it caused a great deal of sore throats & some cases of Typhoid Fever. The man who died was not sick more than 24 hours & we had no opportunity to send him off. His disease was congestion of the lungs.

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The Yankees shelled Fredericksburg yesterday. The firing was very heavy indeed. We are 20 miles off and of course dont know any thing of the particulars.

If Bro Johnny can let me have Solomon mention the subject to Daniel & find out if he agrees. He can get him back whenever he chooses -

Love to all,
Affecty
Willie

Direct to Fitz Lee's Brigade
 Fredericks Hall Depot

Camp 2 Cavalry
Caroline Co. Decr 20, '62

Dear Sis.

Your letter was handed to me just as I was going to mount - and I read it while in the saddle between our old camp in Spottsylvania and this place.

You seemed to manifest a great deal of anxiety about Bro Eddie and fear that I would not see him. At the very time you were writing I was with him. As soon as I heard of the Battle (camp was 15 miles off) I started at once - with some articles necessary for wounded, and after some little trouble found him. The men were drawn up in battle array waiting for the enemy's advance. It was a magnificent position and impossible to take. There was a creek covered with pines semi-circular in form - and all in front the flats extended to the river. Our men Pickett's Division were posted on this ridge behind breastworks hastily erected. As soon as I saw the place I was at once impressed that there would be no fight there. I remained however all night with the boys & part of the next day.

I found they had been sitting along very well - and are better prepared to stand the winter than we are because we have to move so often on account of forage. I ate some of the cake and molasses you all sent to him from home.

You must write me word about a week beforehand if possible, the day that Billy will leave, so that I can go down and see him and get some of the good things I know he will bring with him.

You say in your letter you don't like Western Virginians - alluding I suppose to the sweet-heart I told you I had at Orange Ct. You must know that Orange is not in West Virginia but some distance this side the Blue Ridge and one of the finest counties in the state. Aunt Judy passed thro' it when she went to Culpoper.

I wrote to her the other day in order to see what sort of a letter she writes. If she does not answer my letter I think I shall let the matter drop.

I think Joe Ham has treated me very shabbily indeed. I don't say that because he refused if he does, to give me the recommendation asked for but he has even neglected to answer my letter. I certainly expected a reply from him.

This is a very cold day. The wind blows very hard and we are on a very exposed hill.

How long we will remain here it is impossible to say - not very long certainly on account of forage -

You didn't say anything about Bob or Solomon when you wrote. Is there any probability of my getting either or any other boy.

Love to all - affly

Willie

P.S.

I see Mrs Parrish's death in the papers. - When you write direct to Guineas Depot.

Fitz. Lee's Brigade.

[Faint handwritten notes on the left page]

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(William Hope Peek)

35

2 1/2 pg ink

Camp 2 Va Cavalry
Caroline Co. Decr 20. '62

Dear Sis,

Your letter was handed to me just as I was going to mount - and I read it while in the saddle between our old camp in Spottsylvania and this place.

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Love to all - Affecty
Willie

P. S.

I see Mrs Parrish's death in the papers. - When you write direct to
Guineas Depot
Fitz. Lee's Brigade.

Camp 2, Cavalry

Dec 28 1862

Dear Sir

I have received your second letter, superscribed Fredericks Hall. It came to me while I was in bed one morning.

I have seen brother Eddie again. He was just about to start for Fredericksburg with his regiment where they will act as Pivot Guard under Col Montague's Pivot Marshall. A very nice place for them if by chance they remain there all the winter.

Nearly all our cavalry has been gone over five days under General Strick to see what they can find out and pick up among the Yankees. When they returned it is our duty reported that they will go into winter quarters. At what place it is impossible to say. The infantry still remains in their old position around Fredericksburg and near the battle field. They are building log huts and otherwise preparing for the winter. It seems strange that we should over-winter in the winter is advanced. All is well - yours are all well

one third gone, we should be just thinking about going into Hunter quarters; but the such weather as we have had so far is very pleasant; it is the rain and mud most trying to a soldier - and of those we have so far had comparatively none.

Christmas was celebrated by us in a bowl of as nice Egg nog as I have seen for a long time - but it required a great deal of exertion to get the materials out of which to make it, and last night we supped on oysters thus winding up our frolic and good things for this year.

Billie and Bro Eddie have the advantage of me in that they can communicate home more directly than I can and thus occasionally get something nice. I am very willing however that they shall get things for I believe I can get along quite as well with beef and flour as any body else can.

I hope our winter quarters will be near Richmond or Orange Ct; so that I can either visit you all occasionally or my little sweet heart & my friend Mr. Henderson. I think if you could see her and hear her sing you would be almost captivated yourself. With the exception of a bad cold which troubles me some - and a little rheumatic

pains about my knee I am quite well.

I want you all to send me my trunk & flannel shirts with whatever else you please to put in it. and if you will follow my directions I think it will come safe. Attach a ^{plank} board to it in some way and mark in large letters - Hospital Stores - Asst. Surgeon Peck - 2^d Cavalry - Care of - Capt. Turner - Quartermaster. Guinea. and send the key in a letter.

If you make any nice things - tell me what they cost you and ^{ill} pay you a good percentage besides. I would like to have a few pounds of some nice crackers not these hard fellows. A man who gives 10¢ for ten stamps generally pays well for what he gets.

If any body you know is coming up perhaps they would take the trunk and put it off at Guinea marked as above; otherwise you will send it by express letting me know in either case when you are going to have it sent.

Direct your letters here after simply to me 2^d Cavalry - 7th - Sui's Brigade - without naming any post office.

I hope when you write again Uncle Sam will be well

Love to all -

Willie

(William Hope Peek)

36

3 pg ink

Camp 2 Va Cavalry

Decr 28 1862.

Dear Sis

I have received your second letter superscribed Frederick's Hall. it came to me while I was in bed one morning.

I have seen Brother Eddie again - he was just about to start for Fredericksburg with his regiment where they will act as Provost Guard under Col Montague Provost Marshall - a very nice place for them if perchance they remain there all winter.

Nearly all our cavalry has been gone now five days under General Stuart to see what they can find out and pick up among the Yankees - when they return it is currently reported that we will go into Winter quarters, at what place it is impossible to say.

The infantry still remain in their old position around Fredericksburg and near the battlefield. They are building log huts and otherwise preparing for the winter. It seems strange that we should now - when the winter is one third gone, we should be just thinking about going into Winter quarters; but such weather as we have had so far is very pleasant; it is the rain and mud most trying to a soldier - and of those we have so far had comparatively none.

Christman was celebrated by us in a bowl of as nice Egg Nogg as I have seen for a long time but it required a great deal of exertion to get the nocatuals out of which to make it, and last night we supped on oysters thus winding up our frolic and good things for this year.

Billie and Bro Eddie had the advantage of me in that they can communicate home more directly than I can and thus occasionaly get something nice. I am very willing however that they shall get them, for I believe I can get along quite as well with beef and flour as any body else can.

I hope our winter quarters will be near Richmond or Orange CH. so that I can either visit youall occasionally or my little sweet heart & my friend Mr. Houseworth. I think if you could see her and hear her sing once or twice you would be almost captivated yourself.

With the exception of a bad cold which troubles me some - and a little rheumatic pains about my knees I am quite well.

I want you all to send my trunk & flannel shirts with whatever else you please to put in it and if you will follow my directions I think it will come safe. Attach a plank board to it in some way and mark in large letters - Hospital Stores - Asst. Surgeon Peek - 2n Va Cavalry - Care of Capt. Turner - Quartermaster Guineas. and send the key in a letter.

If you make any nice things - tell me what they cost you and I'll pay you & a good percentage besides. I would like to have a few pounds of some nice crackers not these hard fellows. A man who gives 10\$ for ten stamps generally pays well for what he gets.

(William Hope Peek)

36 pg 2

If anybody you know is coming up perhaps they would take the trunk and put it off at Guineas marked above, otherwise you will send it by Express letting me know in either case when ~~you~~ you are going to have it sent.

Direct your letters hereafter simply to me 2n Va Cavl - Fitz Lee's Brigade without nameing any post office. I hope when you write again Uncle Jessie will be well

Love to all -
Willie

Florence Ala
Dec: 29th 1862

My dear Sis,

You must excuse the little note paper that I am compelled to write on, for we have used all in Florence but this.

A fine opportunity just now presents itself for writing to you. Col. O'Neal who has been for some time wounded in Florence will leave for Richmond in a few days and will perhaps hand this letter to pa. I shall invite the Col. to go out and see you all and report concerning me. If he should go to see you please show him the highest respect and treat him like a prince, for he is my very

3
warm friend. And if you have received some letters that I have written since Oct. you will know that the Col. has done me the favor to appoint me to a position in his regiment, and has offered me a post on his staff when he becomes a Brig. Genl. Hence it is I wish him to be considered my Col. and to whom I am ordered to report in Masch.

Col. O'Neal has a son who is going on to Va with me; and when we get there, if we are fortunate enough, we will together call on Miss Maria. He will not stay with me, but has relatives in Richmond whose claims have precedence.

I have passed another Christmas in Florence, a Christmas which I firmly expected to spend in the bosom of my

family. I ~~ate~~ ^{ate} dinner on Christmas day at Prof. Rice's mother-in-law. She is an old English lady and had things done up after the old style. A table richly loaded with cakes & sweet meats (what of them as could be obtained) and bottles of home-made wine stood in the parlor all the morning; and as often as one pleased a glass of wine and a slice of cake went as well as ice cream at Pizzetti's. The dinner was as good as hard times could afford. Prof. Rice, as I have told you, is a true Virginian, and a dining at his house on the next day was done up according to the old Virginia fashion. That day was also distinguished by the arrival of the Harris girls from the Valley - from sweet Rosedale all covered with vines and surrounded with flowers. Miss Sue is my favorite and when she returns she will take me along

with her as I am invited to
dine at her house on Thursday
and to a party at Col. Goodie's
on Thursday night. There have
been several little tea parties
during the holiday. But Miss
Martin the lady of immense
fortune but exceedingly del-
-icate will perhaps invite me
to her house within a few even-
-ings; and Mrs. Wash. Foster will
please the Misses Harris
by collecting a few young
gentlemen and ladies there.
At both of these places I ex-
-pect to enjoy myself.

There is in Florence at present
a young Miss Shera D. who is
worth 75 thousand in money;
but she is monstrous ugly as to
her nose, eyes and hair - indeed
acts her face in general
having yellow curls and
grey eyes.

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

(George Meridyth Peek)
23

4 pg ink

Florence Ala.
Dec 29, 1862

My dear Sis,

You must excuse the little note paper that I am compelled to write on, for we have used all in Florence but this.

A fine opportunity just now presents itself for writing to you. Col. O'Neal who has been some time wounded in Florence will leave for Richmond in a few days and will perhaps hand this letter to pa. I shall write the Col. to go out and see you all and report concerning me. If he should go to see you please show him the highest respect and treat him like a prince, for he is my very warm friend. And if you have received some letters that I have written since Oct. you will know that the Col. has done me the favor to appoint me to a position in his regiment and has offered me a post on his staff when he becomes a Brig. Genl. Hence it is I wish him to be considered my Col. to whom I am ordered to report in March.

Col. O'Neal has a son who is going on to VA. with me; and when we get there, if we are fortunate enough - We will together call on Miss Maria. He will not stay with me, but has relatives in Richmond whose claims have presidente.

I have passed another Christmas in Florence, a Christmas which I firmly expect to spend in the bosom of my family. I ate dinner on Christmas day at Prof. Rice's Mother-in-law. She is an old English lady and had things done up after the old style. A table richly loaded with cakes & sweet meats (what of them as could be obtained) and bottles of home made wine stood in the parlor all the morning; and as often as one pleased a glass of wine and a slice of cake went as well as ice cream at Pizzerii's. The dinner was a good as hard times could afford Prof. Rice, as I have told you, is a true Virginian; and a dining at his house on the next day was done up according to the old Virginia fashion. That day was also distinguished by the arrival of the Harris girls from the Valley - from sweet Rosedale all covered with vines and surrounded with flowers. Miss Sue is my favorite and when she returns she will take me along with her as I am invited to dine at her house on Thursday and to a party at Col Goode's on Thursday night. There have been several little tea parties here during the holiday. But Miss Martin the lady of immense fortune but exceedingly delicate will perhaps invite me to her house within a few evenings; and Mrs. Wash. Foster will please the Misses Harris by collecting a few young gentlemen and ladies there. At both of these places I expect to enjoy myself.

There is in Florence at present a young Miss Sheraid, who is worth 75 thousand in money but she is monstrous ugly as to the nose, eyes and hair - indeed as to her face in general having yellow curls and grey eyes.

(NO ENDING TO 4-PAGE LETTER.)

Dec 30 1862.

My Dear Sis -

I write in haste to request that you suspend operations about the funds for the present.

It will not be long before we go into winter quarters and I can then get it with more certainty.

If you have sent it before you do this you will of course let me know.

It is said we will winter at or near Harover Junction. If that be true I may get to Nicholas once or twice.

Why haven't you answered my inquiries about getting a boy?

Love to all

Yours

Willie.

Mrs Maria W. P. W.

(William Hope Peek)
37

1 pg ink

Decr 30 1862

My Dear Sis -

I write in haste to request that you suspend operations about the trunk for the present.

It will not be long before we go into winter quarters and I can then get it with more certainty.

If you have sent it before you get this you will of course let me know.

It is said we will winter at or near Hanover Junction. If that be true I may get to Richmond once or twice.

Why have'nt you answered my enquires about getting a boy?

Love to all
Yours
Willie.

Miss Maria L. Peek

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1863

Folder 5 of 9

Camp 2^d Cavalry,
Near Guinea, January 5 1863.

My Dear Sir,

I have received yours of the 2^d inst.
I am glad to hear that Bro Eddie is going to
contend for his position of Lieutenant and hope he
will succeed. Many artillery companies have been
disbanded in this army and all the officers
retain their commissions and pay, in many instances
too without performing any duty.

I wish I had known what day Bro Im. would pass
up on the cars - as I might have gone over to the
depot - only 2 1/2 miles distant to see him. It would
have been a fine opportunity too for me to get my
flannel shirts and trunk.

If Bro Eddie dont fall in to the cake you spoke
of I can't say that I care anything about it. He
all probably you all at home would enjoy it more
than I would, and unless you send it to him
I hope you will eat it.

We have been having most splendid
weather and been facing finely. Bro Davies and

Almond have just gotten boxes from home containing ham, larders, chine, eggs, butter, apples and dried peaches. This morning we had some nice flannel cakes for breakfast. not as good as I have seen them, yet very nice ones.

You have heard of the return of General Stuart - His expedition accomplished very little indeed - and taking into account the injury done to our horses, it was a failure.

Congress will soon meet now - and I hope you all will cultivate that member from Alabama - I may derive his assistance in some matters.

I have no more to write

Soreball.

Hillier

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting follows, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

(William Hope Peek)
38

Camp 2n Va Cavalry.
Near Guineas, January 5 1863.

1 2/3 pg ink

My Dear Sis,

I have received your of the 2n inst. I am glad to hear that Bro Eddie is going to contend for his position of Luientenant and hope he will succeed. Many artillery companies heve been disbanded in this army and all the officers retain their commissions and pay, in many instances too without performing any duty.

I wish I had known what my Bro Jno. would pass up on the cars - as I might have gone over to the depot - only 2 1/2 miles distant to see him. It would have been a fine oppertunity too for me to get my flannel shirts and trunk.

If Bro Eddie don't fall heir to the cake you spoke of I can't say that I care anything about it. In all probability you all at home would enjoy it more than I would, and unless you send it to him I hope you will eat it.

We have been having most splendid weather and been faring finely. Dr. Davies and Almond have just gotten boxes from home containing have, sausage, chine, eggs, butter, apples and dried peaches. This morning we had some nice flannel cakes for breakfast, not as good as I have seen them, yet very nice ones.

You have heard of the return of General Stuart - His expedition accomplished very little indeed - and taking into account the injury done to our horses, it was a failure.

Congress will soon meet now - and I hope you all will cultivate that member from Alabama - I may desire his assistance in some matters.

I have no more to write

Love to all.
Willie

Florence Jan. 7/63

My dear Ma, this morning Col. O'Neal left for Richmond, and before you see him he will be Brig. Genl. and your son will be on his staff.

Mr. Slauce will start in the morning for the same loved place; and I must hasten to drop you a few short lines by him. Mr. Foster, our conqueror, will also be in Richmond with the Col. Out of all these three gentlemen you will certainly see one who will report concerning your long absent boy. It was not at all convenient for me to send the picture, I promised in my letter by the Col., by Mr. Slauce, but you shall receive it by the first opportunity.

My dear Ma, do not think, it because I have not seen

you for so long that I have forgotten to love her, who has watched my youthful steps so faithfully, who has sighed so often over my sick bed when my eyes have filled with tears at such unearthly devotion. I own I have appeared negligent in giving you intelligence of me; but it was not from a decline in love for you, but because the circumstances of the case and the uncertainty of the mails that have cheated you and me so often out of that unparalleled pleasure of hearing from each other.

I look forward with unfeigned delight to the few days I will be permitted to spend with you before I enter into the actual service of my country. I shall leave behind me many friends in Florence; but Oh! I shall so meet those who are more to me than this common affection of friend indicates. April is appointed for my

leave, but the winds of March will sting my ears on my way to the residence in Sydney.

My Christmas has been spent quite merrily considering the times. I have attended three tea parties, two of which were on the large scale where the dance was extensively patronized.

At Mrs. Foster's (a Methodist) all went pleasantly and decently where the dance was not ~~thought~~ thought off and pleasures were drunk without intoxication or fatigue. At Mr. Martin's I had occasion to cease Miss Mollie by alluding to her weakness, in a short lecture, as they all called it, in being persuaded to fill up a set or two. But Miss Emma is the star. She is as bright in character as lovely in person. It is to her I am indebted for a fund of amusement both at Martin's and at Goodie's. At Goodie's, where the Misses Harris were within

DAMAGED PAGE

a few miles of home, the dance was entirely the order of the evening. So much so that Miss Sue could waste no time to chat with her admirer. But Miss Emma was there, and the foolish dance is not too tempting for her. But I fear I do not interest you with my scribble about the girls. It may be proper, however, for me to say that the Army boys have entirely cut your promising boy out of the ring.

I am now living at Dr. Brock's where Prof Rice lived last year. Now, you would do me a favour to enquire after the Rices of Northumberland Co. from their representative in the legislature and transmit any intelligence you may gain giving their name in full for Prof. Rice is well about his relative -
Affectionately George

(George Meridyth Peek)

24

2 1/2 ink

Florence Jan 7th 63

My dear Ma,

This morning Col. O'Neal left for Richmond, and before you see him he will be Brig. Genl. and your son will be on his staff.

Mr Slance will start in the morning for the same loved place; and I must hasten to drop you a few short lines by him. Mr. Foster, our Congressman, will also be in Richmond with the Col. Out of all these three gentlemen you will certainly see one who will report concerning your long absent boy. It was not at all convenient for me to send the picture, I promised in my letter by the Col. (TORN OFF) Mr Slance, but you shall receive it by the first opportunity.

My dear Ma, do not think (TORN OFF) because I have not seen you for so long that I have forgotten to love her, who has watched my youthful steps so faithfully, who has sighed so often over my sick bed when my eyes have filled with tears as such unearthly devotion. I own I have appeared negligent in giving you intelligence of me; but it was not from a decline in love for you, but because the circumstances of the case and the uncertainty of the mails that have cheated you and me so often out of that unparalleled pleasure of hearing from each other. I look forward with unfeigned delight to the few days I will be permitted to spend with you before I enter into actual service of my Country. I shall leave behind me many friends in Florence; but OH! I shall go to meet those, who are (TORN OFF) me than this common appreciation of friends indicates (TORN OFF) April is appointed for my leave, but the winds of March will sting my ears on my way to the residence in Sydney.

My Christmas has been spent quite merrily considering the times. I have attended three tea parties, two of which were on the large scale where the dance was extensively, patronized. At Mrs Foster's (a methodist) all went pleasantly and decorously; where the dance was not thought and pleasures were drunk without intoxication or fatigue. At Mr. Martin's I had occasion to tease Miss Mollie by alluding to her weakness, in a short lecture, as they all called it, in being persuaded to fill up a set or two. But Miss Emma is the star, She is as bright in Character as is lovely in person. It is to I am indebted for a fund of enjoyment both at Martin's and (TORN OFF). Goode's at Goode's, where (TORN OFF) Misses Harris were within a few miles of home, the dance was entirely the order of the evening. So much so that Miss. Sue could waste no time to chat with her admirers. But Miss Emma was there, and the foolish dance is not too tempting for her. But I fear I do not interest you with my scribble about the girls. It may be proper, however for me to say that the Army boys have entirely cut your promising boy out of the ring.

I am now living at Dr. Brocks where Prof. Rice lived last year. Ma, you would do me a favor to enquire after the Rices of Northumberland Co. from there representative in the legislature and transmit any intelligence you may gain giving there news in full for Prof. Rice is uneasy. about his relative -.

Affectionately

Georgie

Florence Jan 15th
1863.

My dear Sis,

Perhaps a former letter has told you that Miss Mollie had not received the answer of her letter from you, but is very anxiously looking for it. You must not think that because I use Miss Mollie's name so often I have any serious notions in that direction. But she is the best friend I have among the ladies in Florence. She has faults which others cannot overlook and which react against her many enemies. Some few hints at her disposition and history will perhaps excite your sympathy as they have mine.

She is the daughter of a Methodist preacher, who died when she was very young. Her mother followed him soon after, and then a grandmother who lived just long

1
enough to spoil her succeeded.
She once, in her childhood,
enjoyed the favours of fortune
and was the pet of a prosper-
ous uncle who some time since
has failed, but seems now to be
recovering. She is as sensitive
as the plant that withers at
the touch, but strong in her at-
tachment to her friends. She is
quick in perception and remark-
-ably frank and open, and be-
-ing naturally of a wild and lively
disposition she is frequently led
into error. While she is ready
to forgive injuries she possesses
strong prejudices and a revenge-
-ful spirit that cannot bear
the presence of its object, and
which at one time almost
induced me to decline a
friendship which her lively
conversation and engaging man-
ner had won.

2
~~She~~ was taken sick while
nursing the soldiers at Inka
and has been in ~~her~~ health
ever since. Hence it is that
I have thought of her so much
in my recent letters to you.

She has caught a young Sergeant
at Inka, who has been bid to
see her.

But now since I am on the
subject of the ladies I must
tell you what a nice time I
have had lately. Miss Sue Harris
you know is the charming lady
of sweet eighteen, who always
has an extensive retinue of
majors, captains, and lieu-
-tenants, who seek her company
and ~~her~~ favour, and I dare
say, her hand. But Miss
Emma Cassity is the young
lady of sweet sixteen, over whose
tender years a pious mother
cannot be too watchful.
Between these two young ladies
Dr. Young our president, declares

3/ I am not capable of choosing
But as easy as he does, that
Miss Estima is the best, and the
sweetest, and the prettiest lady
I ever saw; but that mother of
hers is looking after a fortune
for her; and I, after an unsuc-
cessful attempt in that di-
rection, will have to charge the
impregnable Castle of Rosedale
but to be ~~hounded~~ hounded from its walls
with bruised heart and mangled
feelings. Then I shall fly to your
embrace for consolation, right
where my most lasting affection
and truest heart are.

Give Jennie my love. These girls
have never make me forget those
two girls at home, to be in whose
presence ^{for one moment} would give me more
solid pleasure than to enjoy
a season with the continued
smiles of the others.

4
But as to the ladies of Florence
I have spoken before and
enough.

The first three days of last
week I spent on a camp-
hunt. Camp-hunts are
very familiar to the people
here, but I doubt whether
you ever heard of one before,
so it may be well for me
to give you a short account
of my trip. The Tennessee
is a very wide river at the
mouth, shoals and filled
all along its course for some
miles with beautiful little
islands some of which re-
main in a state of original
wildness. So one of these is-
lands about three miles up the
river from Florence we em-
barked for a camp-hunt.
We took along with us cooking
utensils and provisions for

several days, bedding &c.

The first island we encamped on was the famous Jackson island, and this was so densely covered with cane-brake that it was finally resolved to vacate it and retire to Patton's island which was under cultivation. You may get an imperfect idea of a cane-brake by imagining a whole field densely covered with garden reed about fifteen feet high. The cane is ever green and it is almost impossible to make one's way through it unless with the aid of an axe. There are the haunts of bears and wild hogs. We constructed us a tent out of the cane for the first night and selected a corn crib for our bed the second night; and on the

evening of the third day we returned to Florence with only five ducks and three squirrels.

Since I commenced this letter to you I have enjoyed the party at Mr. Washington Foster's. I was a supper given for the benefit of his son Wash who ~~was~~ ^{is} a candidate for a lieutenancy in the "Slance Rebels"; consequently the whole military company ~~was~~ present, and the ladies were possessed of at least two ~~beaux~~ ^{pieces}.

On arriving at Mr. Foster's I was astonished to see a letter from you, which Dr. Stewart left there. I am surprised to see you so anxious about my safety and welfare. In a time when all communication was cut off you should have

2
contented yourself with resigning
me into the hands of Providence
and waiting patiently until
communication was ~~restored~~

And this morning Prof. Rice,
than whom I have no warmer
friend, handed me a letter
of the same character. I
must confess that I am
really annoyed, but do heartily
excuse you on account of un-
due anxiety of loved ones.

Miss Mollie says I love to
try you and brag about the
love they all have for me
at home. But nothing is further
from me. If it had been possible
for me to get a letter or word
to you certainly nothing of the
sort would have happened.

I am fully convinced of the
high estimation I am held in
at home and I shall with I
always look for a kind and

loving reception. The Professor
wishes me to answer his letter.
And in reply permit me to
say he has been as kind and
as friendly to me as one man could
be to another. I lived with him
first, and I lived with him
last, when I had no home
in Florence he took me in
the very bosom of his family
and I have many a time
bounced his little ones on my
knee and talked to his wife
about the majestic Potomac
and the grand old mountains
and green fields of the Old
Dominion. If your letter to
him had been filled with the
warmest regards and the most
heartfelt thanks for the
many kind services he
has rendered your absent
brother, it would have greatly
pleased me. After it became
evident that I was not

exempt under the Conscription
act it was no other than
Professor Rice who went to
Genl. O'Neal and represented
me as incompetent to occupy
any position in the army
and urged my delicate con-
stitution as a reason why I
~~should~~ ought not to be a
private soldier. The result
of it was that O'Neal met me
~~on the 1st~~ and informed me
that he had appointed me
ordnance officer in his regi-
ment and would permit me
to winter in Florence and
when he became Brig. Genl.
would be pleased to have me
on his staff.

I shall send this letter by Col.
O'Neal (He is called sometimes Genl.
because he was a militia General).
I will also send by him my
photograph taken by Dr. Boyer.

If nothing happens to prevent
and peace is not made
I will be with you within
six ~~months~~ weeks: so, if you
don't receive any more
letters from me please bear
it for these short six weeks.
I have not heard from
home since the battle of Fred-
ricksburg. I fear bro. Eddie
may be among the 1800 killed
and wounded; but I always look
on the bright side of every question
and so must you hereafter -
Give my love to all - and
congratulate miss Georgie
for me. Be prepared to tell
me all the news when I ar-
rive -

Your affect. brotherly
son

Col. (Neal) will stop at Mr.
Rulerford's, and Pa must go to
see him, if he does not call on
you. I have been very kindly
treated at his house.

I am mistaken about Neal's
stopping at Mr. R's; but he will stop
at the Spottwood and will be
there two or three days

ly.

11 1/2 pg ink

Florence Jan 15th 1863

My dear Sis,

Perhaps a former letter has told you that Miss Mollie had not received the answer of her letters from you, but is very anxiously looking for it. You must not think that because I use Miss Mollie's name so often I have any serious notions in that direction. But she is the best friend I have among the ladies in Florence. She has faults which others can not over look and which martial against her many enemies. Some few hints at her disposition and history will perhaps excite your sympathy as they have mine.

She is the daughter of a Methodist preacher, who died when she was very young. Her Mother followed him soon after; and then a grandmother who lived just long enough to spoil her succeeded. She once in her childhood enjoyed the favors of fortune and was the pet of a prosperous uncle who some time since has failed, but seems now to be recovering. She is as sensitive as the plant that withers at the touch, but strong in her attachment to her friends. She is quick in perception and remarkably frank and open and being naturally of a wild and lively disposition she is frequently led into errors. While she is ready to forgive injuries, she possesses strong prejudices and a revengeful presence of its object, and which at one time almost induced me to decline a friendship which her lively conversation and engaging manners had won.

She was taken sick while nursing the soldiers at Iuka and has been in bad health ever since. Hence it is that I have thought of her so much in my recent letters to you. She has caught a young surgeon at Iuka, who has been here to see her.

But now since I am on the subject of the ladies I must tell you what a nice time I have had lately. Miss Sue Harris you know is the charming lady of sweet Eighteen, who always has an extensive retinue of Majors, Captains, and lieutenants, who seek her company and favour, and I dare say, her hand. But Miss Emma Cassity is the young lady of sixteen, over whose tender years a pious mother cannot be too watchful. Between these two young ladies Dr. Young, our president, declares I am not capable of choosing. But I do say, as he does, that Miss Emma is the best, and the sweetest - and the prettiest lady I ever saw; but that mother of hers is looking after a fortune for her; and I, after an unsuccessful attempt in that direction, will have to charge the impregnable castle of Rosedale but to be barred from its walls with bruised heart and mangled feelings. Then I shall fly to your embrace for consolation, right where my most lasting affect and trust heart are.

Give Jennie my love, & these girls here never make me forget those two girls at home, to be in whose presence for one moment would give me more pleasure for one moment would give me more solid pleasure than to enjoy a season with the continued smiles of the others. But to the ladies of Florence I have spoken before and enough.

The first three days of last week I spent on a camp-hunts. Camp-hunts are very familiar to the people here, but I doubt whether you ever heard of one before so it may be well for me to give you a short account of my trip. The Tennessee is a very wide river at the Muscle Shoals and filled all along its course for some miles with beautiful little islands some of which remain in a state of original wilderness. To one of these islands about three miles up the river from Florence we embarked for a camp hunt. We took along utensils and provisions for several days, bedding &c. The first island we encamped on was the famous Jackson island, and was so densely covered with cain-breaker that it was finally resolved to vacate it and retire to Patton's island which was under cultivation, You may get an imperfect idea of a cain-breaker by imagining a shore filled densely covered with garden reed about fifteen feet high. The cain is evergreen and it is almost impossible to make one's way through it unless with the aid of an axe. These are the haunts of bears and wild hogs. We constructed us a tent out of cain crib for our bed the second night; and on the evening of the third day we returned to Florence with only five ducks and three squerrels.

Since I commenced this letter to you I have enjoyed the party at Mr. Washingtons Foster's; It was a supper given for the benefit of his son Wash who is a candidate for a lieutenantey in the "SlauceRebels" consequently the whole military company was present, and the ladies were possessed of at least two beaux a peice.

On arriving at Mr Foster's I was astonish to see a letter from you, which Dr Stewart left there. I am surprised to see you so anxious about my safety and welfare. In a time all communication was cut of you should have contented yourself with resigning me into the hands of Providence and waiting portiantly until communication was restored. And this morning Prof Rice, than whom I have no warmer friend, hounded me a letter of the same character I must confess that I am really anoyed; but do heartily excuss you on account of undue anxiety of loved ones.

Miss Mollie says I love to try you and brag about the love they all have for me at home. But nothing so farther from me. It is had been possible for me to get a letter or word to you Certanily nothing of the sort would have happened I am fully convinced of the high estimation I am held in at home and hither will I always look for a kind and loving reception. The Professor wishes me to answer his letter. And in reply permit me to say he has been as kind an friendly to me as one man could be to another. I lived with him first and I lived last. When I have no home in Florence he took me in the very bosom of his family and I have many a time bounced his little ones on my knee and talked to his wife about the majestic Potomac and the grand old mountains and green field of the Old Dominion. If your letter to him had been filled with the warmest regards and the most heartfelt thanks for the many kind services he has rendered your absent brother, it would have greatly pleased me. After it became evident that I was not exempt under the conscription act it was no other than Professor Rice who went to Genl. O'Neal and represented me as compitent to occupy any position in the Army and urged my delicate constitution as a reason why I ought not to be a private soldier. The result of it was the O'Neal met me and informed me that he had appointed me ordnancé officer in his regiment and would permit me to winter in Florence and when he become Brig Genl. would please to have me on his staff.

(George Meridyth Peek)

25 pg 3

I shall send this letter by Col. O'Neal (He is called some times Genl. because he was a Militia General) I will also send by him my photograph taken by Dr Dryor.

If nothing happens to prevent and peace is not made I will be with you in six week; so if you dont receive any more letters from me please bear it for these short six weeks. I have not heard from home since the battle of Fredricksburg. I fear bro Eddie may be among the 1800 Killed and wounded; but I always look on the bright side of every question and so must you hereafter - Give my love to all - and Congratulate Miss Georgie for me. Be prepared to tell me all the news when I arrive -

Your affect Brother
Georgie

(ON BACK)

Col. O'Neal will stop at Mr. Rulerford's and Pa must go to see him, if he does not call on you. I have been very kindly treated at his house.

I am mistaken about O'Neals stopping at Mr. R's, but he will stop at the Spotswood and will be there two or three days

G.

Camp 5 miles from
Hanover C.H. Jan'y. 15 1863.

My Dear Sir,

I am almost certain that you have so timed the sending of my trunk as to cause me to lose it. If you sent it as you said on Wednesday I shall never see it.

Now I wrote to you Christmas eve or even before giving you directions and if you had sent it on at once all would have been right, but instead of that you wait 3 weeks, why I don't know - after I am 30 miles from the place you intend to send it to - and as a matter of course it will be broken open, its contents stolen & the trunk destroyed.

But suspecting something would be wrong I wrote a day after & requested you not to send the trunk at all - till you heard from me. I am much obliged to you for the spirit of accommodation & can't complain if you have done your best, but if you had followed my directions all would have been right.

We are now only 23 miles from Richmond & will probably remain here some time, so if it is not lost I may yet get my trunk.

Dr Davies is home on furlough & Dr Almond in
Richmond to attend his examination & that I
am very busy. Mr. Beatty has returned and
affords me much pleasure.

We are about making some preparation
for the winter - now it is half gone and
I am very congratulatory to Mary & Saml. Tell
them I love to all
Willie

[The following text is extremely faint and illegible, appearing to be a continuation of the letter or a separate page of handwriting.]

(William Hope Peek)
39

Camp 5 Miles from
Hanover C H. Jany. 15 1863.

1 1/2 pg ink

My Dear Sis,

I am almost certain that you have so timed the sending of my trunk as to cause me to lose it. If you sent it as you said on wednesday I shall never see it.

Now I wrote to you Christmas eve or even before giving you directions and if you had sent it on at once all would have been right, but instead of that you wait 3 weeks, why I don't know - after I am 30 miles from the place you intend to send it to - and as a matter of course it will be broken open, its contents stolen & the trunk destroyed.

But suspecting something would be wrong I wrote a day after & requested you not to send the trunk at all - till you heard from me. I am much obliged to you for the spirit of accomodatoin & can't complain if you have done your best, but if you had followed my directions all would have been right.

We are now only 23 miles from Richmond & will probably remain here some time, so if it is not lost I may yet get my trunk.

Dr. Davies is home on furlough & Dr Almond in Richmond to stand his examination so that I am very busy. Mr. Berry has returned and affords me much pleasure.

We are about making some preparations for the winter - now it is half gone.

My congratulations to Mary & Luliet. Tabl.

Love to all
Willie

Worcester

Jan. 25th/63.

My dear Sis, Much have I desired to hear from you of late. The letters that I have received all date previous to the battle of Fredricksburg, and as I receive no papers from Richmond I cannot tell who is killed or wounded among my dear friends and relations. Long have I looked in vain for a letter, but I am so accustomed not to hear from ^{home} for such long intervals in succession, and then to hear that all is well, that I still console myself by thinking that Providence is still favoring you. I have written often, but don't whether

you have received a single letter; and you too must have written many times but as I have said no letter has reached me since the battle of Fredsburg.

It will be only about one month and a half before I shall take up my march for home, and there I will not be permitted to remain but a few weeks, before I join Genl. A'Peel in the army of Virginia.

There is no news of any consequence to write you - The Tennessee has been swollen by the late rains and the Gun boats are expected by some but it is not generally believed they can get so high up the river til the water rises higher. The town is thrown into a little commotion especially among the young

in consequence of a marriage that is about to be celebrated in our midst - It is Miss Georgia Foster to Capt. Kennedy of Mississippi. Miss Emma is to wait on her. Oh! how I expect to feast my eyes when she appears in her waiting habit! O'Yang says she is the prettiest and most gracefully looking lady he ever saw. Now imagine how I shall enjoy myself when I see her. The wedding and bridal party is all the talk in town. Accost a group of ladies on the corner of the street in the evening, and guess their subject of conversation, and it will be "Oh! what are you going to wear?" The gentlemen are equally inquisitive asto whether each other is invited.

Dr. Brock, the gentleman with whom I am now living, is a perfect gentleman and treats me with much politeness and favour. He married a daughter of old Virginia, her parents migrating here when she was quite young. So you see I meet with Virginians every where, and well may the people think much of Virginians; for I have always found them the fairest gentlemen and ladies. And now, my sis, it looks bad to send you but this little sheet; but only a few short weeks will pass before I expect embrace you in person. I send you a kiss right in that round mark and much love to all —

I am very well — The articles you once wrote for cannot be had here now —
Your aff. brother
George.

(George Meridyth Peek)
26

4 pg ink

Florence
Jan 25th/63

My dear Sis,

Much have I desired to hear from you of late. The letters that I have received all date previous to the battle of Fredericksburg, and as I receive no papers from Richmond I cannot tell who is killed or wounded among my dear friends and relations. Long have I looked in vain for a letter, but I am so accustomed not to hear from home for such long intervals in succession, and then to hear that all is well, that I still console my self by thinking that Providence is still favoring you. I have written, but doubt - whether you have received a single letter; and you too must have written many times but as I have said no letter has reached me since the battle of Fred;s,burg.

It will be only about one month and a half before I shall take up march for home, and there I will not be permitted to remain but a few weeks, before I join Genl. O'Neal in the Army of Virginia

There is no news of any consequences to write you - The Tennessee has been swollen by the late rains and the gun boats are expected by some but it is not generally beleived they can get so far up the river til the water rises higher. The town is thrown into a little commotion especially among the young in consequence of a marrige that is about to be celebrated in our midst - Its Miss Georgia Foster to Capt Kennedy of Mississippi

Miss Emma is to wait on her. Oh; how I expect to feast my eyes when she appears in her waiting habit! Dr Young says she is the prettiest and most queenly looking lady. he ever saw, Now imagine how I shall enjoy my self when I see her. The wedding and bridal party is all the talk in town. Accost a groupe of ladies on the corner of the street in the evening and guess their subject of consersation, and it will be "Oh", what are you going to ware? The Gentlemen are equally inquisitive as to whether each other is invited.

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I'm very well - The articles you once wrote for cannot be had here now -

Your aff. brother
George.

My dear Ma, I have requested Col. O'Neal to drop this letter in the post office as soon as he arrives in the City. He will stop at the Spotswood House and will remain there two or three days.

It will delight me if Pa or Brother Johnny will go immediately and hunt him out; and press him to spend some time with you. He has done me many good offices, and permits me to remain in Florence until the winter is entirely gone. So I will not be with you so soon as I anticipate in the letter I have written you by him. I will perhaps will see me with you.

The Col. is a small man not larger than I am perhaps, with short grey hair, a sharp hard looking face and heavy mustache nicely trimmed.

He wears a grey uniform coat with his Col's mark on his arm and three stars on his collar. He looks a soldier every inch of him and would be noticed in a large crowd.

His mustache are grey if not dyed - Pa will know him if he sees him from this description. We will give you a letter but not my photograph as it could not be finished in time - I am with much love to all your aff. son

George

(George Meridyth Peek)

27

2 pg ink

NOTE

(TWO PAGE LETTER TO MA WRITTEN ON SMALL NOTE PAPER; MATCHES OTHER LETTERS WRITTEN BY G. PEEK IN JAN 1863 - (NO DATE ON LETTER.) FROM FLORENCE ALA.)

My dear Ma,

I have requested Col. O'Neal to drop this letter in the post office as soon as he arrives in the city - He will stop at the Spotswood House and will remain there for three day.

It will delight me if Pa or brother Jonny will go immediately and hunt him out; and press him to spend some time with you. He has done me many good offices, and permits me to remain in Florence until the winter is entirely gone. So I will not be with so soon as I anticipate in the letter I have written you by him. April perhaps will see me with you.

The Col. is a small man not, larger than I am perhaps, with short grey hair, a sharp hard looking face and heavy mustache nicely trimmed. He wares a grey uniform coat with his Col's mark on his arm and three stars on his collar. He looks a soldier every inch of him and would be noticed in a large crowd.

His mustashe are grey if not dyed - Pa will know this description. He will give you a letter but not my photograph as it could not be finished in time - I am with much love to all

Your aff Son

Georgie

Camp near Culpeper VA

Feb 15 '63

Dear Sis

We arrived here after a terrible march of 4 days - the worst weather we have had for some time. I caught a very bad cold sleeping one night on the ground without any blanket or other protection save my overcoat. One night I slept in a private house by invitation, and that saved me a spell of sickness -

Since I've been here I heard that a Miss Knox (Capt's Sister?) had married an old Baptist minister named George, only 65 years of age!!!

I don't think I can get a furlough and my chances of promotion are none at all. It is required that an asst. Surgeon must have 5 years practice before he can get an invitation, we have a comfortable camp and expect to remain some time, Direct your letters to Culpeper VA.

Zeno Miller

(William Hope Peek)
40

1 pg ink

Camp near Culpeper - CH
Feb 15 '63

Dear Sis

We arrived here after a terrible march of 4 days - the worst weather we have had for some time. I caught a very bad cold sleeping one night on the ground without any blanket or other protection save my overcoat. One night I slept in a private house by invitation, and that saved me a spell of sickness -

Since I've been here I heard that a Miss Knox (Capt's Sister ?) had married an old Baptist minister named George only 65 years of age !!!

I don't think I can get furlough and my chances of promotion are none at all. It is required that an asst. Surgeon must have 5 years practice before he can get an invitation. We have a comfortable camp and, expect to remain some time, Direct your letters ot Culpeper CH.

Yours
Willie

Camp 2 Valcavalry
Near Culpeper VA. Feby 15. '63

I hereby empower Mr Daniel G.
Marriss my agent to purchase cloth for
me from the C. S. Government, and authorize
him to sign my name in all such
transactions

Wm H Peck

Asst. Surgn. 2 Valcavalry.

Daniel,

I send the above thinking you
may possibly have some opportunity to buy
me some cloth. If you can do so I take
it for granted you will do so for me.
Write to me -

Yrs

Wm H Peck

(William Hope Peek)
41

1 pg ink

Camp 2n Va Cavalry
Near Culpeper CH. Feby 15 '63

I hereby empower Mr Daniel G. Marrow my agent to purchase cloth for me from the C. S. Government, and authorize him to sign my name in all such transactions.

Wm H. Peek
Asst. Surgeon 2 Va Cavly.

Daniel,

I send the above thinking you may possibly have some oppertunity to buy me some cloth. If you can do so I take it for granted you will do so for me

Write to me -

Yrs.
W H P

Florence Ala. Feb. 23^d

My dear Sir,

I did not intend in the least to make you think I was at all dissatisfied with our condition by my letter, in which I confess I dwelt rather on the "blue" side of the question. Oh 'no, I think, so far as I am concerned, I have struck a vein of luck. It was only the trouble they at home were subjected to that made me feel uneasy. I am pleased with the prospects we all have as well as with the present status of affairs, only I fear that Ma will let the troubles and anxieties of the war afflict her too much. So far as I am concerned, I am the greatest military man in Sandale County. The volunteers as well as the Militia are requesting

me every day to drill them; and now besides my duties at the College I am drilling two Companies; and whenever the Militia are called out I am the all important personage on every occasion. But ~~it~~ does not stop here. All this drifts me to a good position in the Army; And it will be no consolation, but an ever awrying mortification to me for this war to pass and I not take part in it.

Judge Moore, the gentleman of whom I have frequently spoken in my letters, a friend of mine indeed, met me on the street the other day and remarked to me that he intended, since the Governor had called for 12000 Volunteers, to raise a regiment and would like to have me go along with him. I expressed my readiness to go; and he remarked that he would be

glad to have me occupy a good position in his regiment and would do all he could to that end.

Judge Moore is an excellent gentleman and a man of great influence; but entirely destitute of Military knowledge. The College is almost entirely gone down ~~only~~, composed of only 11 students in the Collegiate department and about 15 in the preparatory department; and by this time you know I am prepared even to Command a regiment; for military tactics about every thing else has been my study. I tell you there's no telling what be a major before next July.

Tell Pige I shall never know how to repay her kindnesses. I shall not be in want of money any more from home, as the College is endowed and the pay of the Professors will continue, if they have any one student to teach.

And, and finally, Dr. Young, our President,
told me the other day in the
Faculty meeting, that, if I didn't
marry a pretty and good and
rich girl in Florence, it would
be my fault; for, says he,
that little Professor creates a
tremendous fuss amongst them.
Well of course you know my
feelings about that matter; but
nevertheless nothing shall interfere
with my plans.

Give my love to all -

I have never received any letter
either from Jennie or Aunt Judy
since I have been here, except
the note Jennie wrote me in your
letter.

Yours aff. bro.

Edw. Peck

(George Meridyth Peek)

28

4 pg ink

Florence Ala Feb 23rd

My dear Sis,

I did not intend in the least to make you think I was at all dissatisfied with our conaition by my letter, in which I confess I dwelt rather on the "blue" side of the question. Oh! no I hink, so far as I am concerned, I have struck a vein of luck. If was only the trouble they have at home were subjected to that made me feel uneasy. I am pelased with the prospects we all have as well as with the present status of affairs. Only I fear that Ma will let the troubles and anxieties of the war affected he too much.

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Tell Pegie I shall never know how to repay her kindnesses. I shall not be in want of money any more from home, as the College is endowed and the pay of the Professor will Continue, if they have only one student to teach.

And, now finally, Fr Young, our president told me the other day in the Faculty meeting, that if I didn't mary a pretty and good and rich girl in Florence, it would be my fault; says he that little Professors creates a tremendous fuss amongst them. Well of course you know my feelings about that matter; nevertheless nothing shall interfere with my plans

Give my love to all

I have never received any letter Either from Jennie or Aunt Judy. Since I have been here, except the note Jennie wrote me in your letter.

Your aff bro
Geo. M. Peek

Camp 2nd Tabawaly,
Near Culpeper Ct. March 12.

Dear Sir

Tell Bro Whany if he wants
me to spend any State money for him to send
it at once to me. There is some probability of
our being ordered over into Fauquier, and if
so, we'll scout down to Loudon - & may have
some opportunities of purchasing goods.

We have heard thro' flag of truce
that Dr Davies is dead. Soon after that
my horse ran away with Mr. Douglas our
Hospital Steward and dashed his head against a
tree, He now lies in a critical condition.

I made application for a furlough the other day & Col.
Munford said he could not possibly spare me - altho'
we have another Assistant with us now.

I shall apply for the promotion - Tell Ma to get me
a pair of pants at once. Write soon -
at any cost and send them to Mr. Willis
Houseworth the Expres at Orange Ct. write him a note.

(William Hope Peek)
42

Camp 2n Va Cavalry,
Near Culpeper CH. March 12.

1 pg ink

Dear Sis

Tell Bro. Johnny if he wants me to spend any State money for him to send it a once to me. There is some probability of our being ordered over into Fauquier, and if so, we'll scout down to Loudon - I may have some oppertunities of purchasing goods -

We have heard thru' flag of truce that Dr. Davies is dead - Soon after that my horse ran away with Wm Douglass our Hospital steward and dashed his head against a tree. He now lies in a crical condition.

I made application for a furlough the other day, Col. Munford said he could not possibly spare me - altho' we have another Assistant with us now.

I shall apply for the promotion - Tell Ma to get me a pair of pants at once at any cost and send them to Mr. Houseworth (Express at Orange CH.) write him a note

Write soon -
Willie

New York,

Camp 2nd Sta.

Near Union's Sta.

Saturday Morning, April 1, 1863.

He arrived in camp before twelve on the day we started, and found Col. Abel quite sick in his ^{tent} camp. He is still sick, but has been removed to a private house in the night overhead.

The prospects of his promotion are, I think, rather poor. Noticing the condition of his regiment, the discipline of his camp, and some reports I hear, I can but think he will not be promoted. I express these things very privately and would not have them repeated for any time in season.

I had a talk with the
col. today, and he says there
is no doubt of your getting
a position, either with
Genl. Stuart or in the
ordnance department
where I can be assigned
to duty in the field or
in Genl. It will be necessary
however, for you to stand
an examination for the
letter position. You will
therefore get Charley to
see the Lt. Tucker. I introduced
him to and got him to send
me the book I have to
stand on. It is probably
if I have to study, that
I will be home in a week
or so.

Capt. Priest of this Reg. will
carry this letter to Richmond

and will remain there on
business for some days.
He will stop at it when
- - - - -

Ask Cousin James what
he thinks of a position
with Stuart and the one
in the ordnance dep.
And if he can aid me
in getting letters from
distinguished men in
Richmond. The Col. thinks
I will be comfortably
situated. He is a man
for whom I have the
greatest respect, and do
hope he will succeed
in his efforts to be promoted.

My love to all - Excuse
this short letter. will write
longer at some other
time -
- Edward's his brother
- - - - -
George -

(George Meridyth Peek)
29

3 pg ink

Camp 26th Ala
near Guinea's Sta
Saturday morning
April 1863

Dear Sis

We arrived in Camp before twelve on the day we started and found Col. O'Neal quite sick, but has been removed to a private house in the neighbourhouse.

The prespective of his promotion are, I think, rather poor. Noticing the condition of his regiment, the discipline of his camp, and some reports I hear. I can but think he will not be protected. I express these things very privately and would not have them repeated for any thing in reason.

I had a talk with the Col. to day, and he says there is no doubt of my getting a position, either with Gen Stuart, or in the ordance department where I can be assigned to duty in the field or on post. It will be necessary however, for me to stand an examination for the latter position. You will therefore get Charly to see the Lt. Tucker I introduced. him to and get him to send me the book I hope to stand on. It is probable, if I have to study, that I will be home in a week or so.

Capt Priest of this Regt. will carry this letter to Richmond and will remain there on business for some days. He will stop at the Spotswood

Ask Cousin James what he thinks of a position with Stuart and the one in the Ordanance Dept., And if he can aid me in getting letters from distinguished men in Richmond. The Col. thinks I will be comfortably situated. He is a man for whom I have the greatest respect, and do hope he will succeed in his effort to be promoted.

My love to all - Excuse this short letter, will write longer - at some other time.

Ed send his kindness regards.

Georgie.

Camp near Padesha

April 10 '6

Dear Sir

When I got to Leesville yesterday I heard we were going to move today and concluded not to go to Charlottesville, but come at once to camp:

We will move tomorrow. Our destination is a secret. It seems however to be well understood that we will cross the upper Rappahannock and go into Fauquier. What may be the object of the move I cannot tell. We may be going into the valley or into Loudoun.

Everything is going on very quiet in camp and this life is a very dull one.

In reply to your application for
proof of the transactions of
the year 1842 I have to inform
you that I have no record in
the office of the Secretary of the
Board of Commissioners of the
Land Office of the State of
Ohio for the year 1842. I have
not the receipt of any of the
land sold in the year 1842. I
will get the receipt.

The receipt of the
land sold to our regiment was
10 acres. The receipt of the
land sold to all the regiments
was 10 acres for my share.

Done at the - - - - -
the 26th of January 1842.

Wm. J. Miller

(William Hope Peek)
43

Camp near Culpeper
April 10 '63

2 pg. encl

Dear Sis

When I got to Gordonsville yesterday I heard we were going to move today and concluded not to go to Charlottesville, but come on at once to camp.

We will move tomorrow - our destination is a secret. It seems however to be well understood that we will cross the upper Rappahannock and go into Fauquier. What may be the object of the move I cannot tell. We may be going into the valley or into Loudon.

Every thing is going on very quietly in camp - and this life is a very dull one.

In reply to my application for promotion the Surgeon General informs me that Dr Davies is still on the records as Surgeon of this regiment & that there is no vacancy. He has received no official notice of his death. In a few days I will get the invitation.

The amount of cloth given out to our regiment was 10 yards - so my chance is just none at all. I'll have to look elsewhere for my share.

Love to all - Is not Georgie's regiment the 26th Alabama

Affecty
Willie

Camp 2nd Cavalry
Near Springfield,
April 21, 1862

Since we have been
back to the States, many of us
have had a chance to see
some of our old friends
and to see some of our
old places. I have seen
a poor horse in his time.
We left Pulper for Salem
in upper Fauquier which we
reached after two days.
We were much delighted with the
change and thought we would
have very well in there as the
country still contains much fruit
and a very respectable supply
of bacon, eggs, chickens, and
convenient stores.

of us hoping to return to Fougères
or even as far as London.

At 10:15 the lumber was sent
to the store at 10:30. I must have another
or I shall soon be a fool.

They are very high and still going
up. Several have been
brought lately from the
Atlantic.

When you write continue to
direct your letters to
Carpenter St.
New York

I would like to get Billie but
I suppose can't as it is very
in fact I have lost him.

(William Hope Peek)

44

H. H. Peek

Camp 2n Va Cavalry

Near Sperryville

April 17, 1863

Dear Sis,

Since I wrote my last letter we have travelled over considerable distance and counter marched more than is agreeable to a man of my tastes with a poor horse in his teens.

We left Culpeper CH. for Salem in upper Fauquier which we reached after two days march. We were much delighted with the change and though we would fare very well over there as the country still contains much forage and a very respectable supply of bacon eggs chickens & such commissary stores -

We remained at our camp two ~~days~~ nights and one day and started to go still further on. We had marched I suppose 200 yards - when a report came from Stuart that the Yankees were making a demonstration on Kelly's Ford and we were ordered back across to Amissville in this county (Rappahannock) so as to be in supporting distance.

We remained there a day or two of the most disagreeable weather imaginable & were ordered to Culpeper CH. to assist Gen W.H.F. Lee's brigade - We had only gone 3 miles through a cold driving rain when we were ordered back. After spending another night we took up our march to this place.

We got here last night & this morning about 4 o'clock we were ordered up to meet the approaching enemy - but it proved to be a false alarm and now we are in camp again.

The Yankees failed to get across the river. Our sharp shooters in the rifle pits drove them back. The men swore they would not cross till our men were driven out of the pits. They tried to shell them out but it was no go. We brought some our artillery and they retired & took up camp near the river where at last accounts they still were. This little skirmishing was done by the other brigade with a squadron of our regiment which was on picket there. We had no man hurt - one or two horses killed.

Where we will go from here it is impossible to tell. We will certainly not remain here long. We are most of us hoping to return to Fauquier or even as far as Loudon.

If Dr. Brockenborough has not sold his horse - get Bro Johnny to offer him 500\$ for him and I will give Uncle Jesse 400\$ for his if he wishes to bill him. I must have another or I shall soon be on foot.

They are very high and still going up - several here have been bought lately for up to 6 hundred dollars -

When you write continue to direct your letters to
Culpeper CH.

Love to all -
Willie

I would like to get Billie but I suppose I can't do it - It is my fault I have lost him.

Camp 2, 20th October

Wellington 1911. 1911. 23

Dear Sir,

I have at last received
my invitation with love to
leave with you to the General
and to the staff in the
month of the 4th - 10th
and I shall go down in a few
days now - expect to stop a day or
two at Haverhill Junction with
the old friend of mine who is
the local Passenger there.

I have to say that I have
no invitation about the matter
yet, but I may get some -
I should like you to be in
about the 10th or 11th of the
month - I shall be
I look of display over his wife

The first thing I called to
attention was the
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..

(William Hope Peek)

45

1 1/3 pg ink

Camp 2n Va Cavalry
Culpeper CH. April 23

Dear Sis,

I have at last received my invitation - but it is to appear before The Board at General Lee's Head Quarter's - That is not so pleasant as another trip to Richmond would be. I shall go down in a few days now - expect to stop a day or two at Hanover Junction with an old frind of mine who is Medical Purveyor there.

I am sorry to say that I was mistaken about the cloth - I can't get any yet awhile - tho' it is probable I may get some - I would like much to be in Richmond about the 4th or soon after. I suppose will make some sort of display over his wife.

We are having dreadful weather and what is worse still I am suffering under another attack (slight) of my sickness I had in Richmond -

Love to all -
Willie

Camp 2500 ft.,
April 24/02.

I have to be in Richmond in
order to see a certain gentleman. This
after the delay of some business was to
be to the West - and I wish to go to
the West to visit some of my
old friends. Mr. [Name] will go to
the [Name] of [Name] to the [Name]
[Name]. He promised to come with
me if I should not have as he preferred
the railway to the [Name].

I have mounted since arrived for 3 days
over another attack of my [Name] of the
[Name] I am a little better to day. I shall
try to run the [Name] to [Name] in order
to have a day or two for [Name] before it
[Name].

Yours

Merle

(William Hope Peek)

46

1 pg ink

Camp 2n Va Cavly.
April 25 '63

My Dear Sis,

I hope to be in Richmond in a few days and I request you to forward this letter to Billy Stores. I am anxious now to get that Boy Billy - and I can ask the Capt to send him to Richmond to me.

If he is in Richmond and has not gone to the 32n get David or Charlie to try and see him for me. He promised to come with me if I should wait for him, as he preferred the Cavalry to the infantry.

I have grunted and groaned for 3 days over another attack of My Congestion of the Liver - I am a little better to day. I shall try to run the blockade to Richmond in order to have a day or two for reviewing before I stand.

Yours
Willie

June 11 - 1863.

Dear Sis -

Day before yesterday we had the most extensive Cavalry fight we have had since the war, from 10 to 15000 being engaged on each side.

It is the opinion of all - as in every other fight - that Genl. Steuart managed badly. He was surprised - undoubtedly his pickets were many of them taken and some regiments, I learn were attacked while their horses were grazing.

We fought nearly all day - our brigade coming in late in the afternoon, and in a short time the Yankees began to retire - whether voluntarily or not it is hard to tell.

Our losses are severe - Gen W H F Lee wounded - (flesh) - Col's Hampton and Williams killed - Col Butler (said to be mortally) & Lt Col Jeff Phillips badly wounded - are among some of the casualties I have heard. My regiment

had 2 killed + seven wounded
only among sharpshooters - the whole
of it was not engaged.

Genl Stuart has had no
less than 3 grand reviews of his
Cavalry - the last one witnessed
by Genls R & Lee, Longstreet & Ewell -
and the second by a large number
of ladies - some as far off as Lynchburg.
At night there was a ball so all
this follows close at the heel by a
bloody fight.

What the programme is now
I cannot conjecture - there is a
large portion of the infantry up
here + Genl Lee has his headquarters
near Culpeper Ct -

We will not long remain
quiet but advance in all
probability.

Billy serves me well -

Love to all
Willie

(William Hope Peek)
48

2 1/4 109 mib

June 11 - 1863

Dear Sis -

Day before yesterday we had the most extensive cavalry fight we have had since the war, from 10 to 15000 being engaged on each side. It is the opinion of all - As in every other fight - that Genl. Stuart managed badly. He was suprised - undoubtely - his pickets were many of them taken and some regiments, I learn were attacked while their horses were grazing.

We fought nearly all day - our brigade coming in late in the afternoon and in a short time the Yankees began to retire - whether voluntarily or not it is hard to tell.

Our losses are severe Gen W.H.F. Lee wounded - (flesh) - Cols. Hampton and Williams killed - Co. Butler (said to be mortally) & Lt. Col. Jeff Phillips badly wounded - are among some of the casualties I have heard. My regiment has 2 killed & seven wounded only among sharp shooters - the whole of it was not engaged.

Genl. Stuart has had no less than 3 grandreviews of his Cavalry - the last one witnessed by Gen's R. E. Lee, Longstreet & Ewell - and the second by a large number of ladies - some as far off as Lynchburg. At night there was a ball & all this followed close at the heel by a bloody fight.

What the programue is now I cannot conjecture - there is a large portion of the infantry up here & Genl. Lee has his head quarters near Culpeper CH. --

We will not long remain quiet but advance in all probability.

Billy serves me well -

Love to all
Willie

Simpsons Farm near Hampton
June 22^d 1863

Dear Sister

I had expected you would have written before this but have been disappointed. Now shall look no longer for a letter but take up the old proverb out of sight out of mind but not so with me there is hardly a day that I do not think of you all particularly of yourself and a Brother. I do not expect ever to see you again in this world but if not I trust in god to meet you in Heaven for that happy place I am trying to live and in hope of it I expect to die. Which I came very near doing before last, when out fishing. The canoe sunk with me about 300 yards from the shore the wind was very high I swam as long as I could and then turned on my back either to float to the shore or down being exhausted when I after floating some time the bottom bottomed and was safe. But lost my pocket-book with about \$50. in it every cent. I had to save my life and came up to the house pretty life but I am again on my feet and doing tolerably well. Dr. East the Junior Surgeon from Chesapeake Hospital was looking at me all the while I was in the water and

2. Certifica to Genl Dix how I lost my grasp
I got me another
Doctors Clark & Allen have been very
kind to us indeed. Annie will now write.

Dear Aunt

As Pa has left soon for me to write I will drop
you a few lines I am not very well at present but hope you
are all well I heard that Sissy got my letter and have
been expecting to hear from you all but have not till her
she must answer my letter very soon, Doctor Clark & Allen have
been very kind, Little Fannett is dead she died on the night
of June in full hope of glory she was a great sufferer
she was sick three weeks and was ill two weeks all her talk
was about you and Uncle Jesse and the doctor she said
if Uncle Jesse was to attend her she would get well, but
was perfectly willing to die and go to her Lord, she sent her
love to you all and said you must meet her in heaven
she talked so much about you she said she loved you
dearly, those two Doctors I have mentioned attended her
and were very attentive they are two very nice gentlemen
Fannett went a bathing in May and the next day she
was sick but went with Pa and Ma to Uncle Billie's
it was a very warm day she was taken very sick complain-
ed of the headache we thought it was a common headache
and did not send for any Doctor but she still continued
to get worse so we sent for these Doctors they had been
coming here before visiting they came and pronounced it
the brain fever. they were very kind indeed to us they brought
us ice and every thing that we needed and did not charge

a cent for any thing. She was buried very nicely except she
did not have any ~~one~~ to read over her but Mr Coliar
one of our old Hampton men, Tell Aunt Mollie I have seen
Fannie and Washington they are living at Demeris Keeping
store, she sends her love to Miss Mollie and the children
and Miss Fannett I have seen ~~Mary~~^{Mammy} Mary Swiney she looks
like old times has not altered one bit she sends her love
to all of you and says she wants to see you all so much
she says give her love to her children and tell them
she is well and wants to see them very much she says tell
them to write to her, old Aunt Mollie is dead I suppose you
have heard it before, tell Sissy to write me all the news or
write a long letter, nothing affords me more pleasure than
to receive a letter from any of you all, I must now close as I
have taken a long walk and am very tired give my love
to Sissy Aunt Mollie Uncle Jesse and to all of my
cousins give my love to Lizzie Adlington and Maria
Jett and tell them to write to me, I wish I could be
with you all I want to see you all so much inquire
after Uncle Fing Watts for me and Mrs Whitings sons
you will much oblige me by so doing write as soon as
you get this Ma, Jessie, and all the children send their
love to you all Nothing more Good bye your affectionate
Niece untill death Annie & Hope let me here from
you all soon tell Sissy to write tell her she must not think
because I am down here with the Yankees that I have
turned Yankee I grow stronger Southern every day I am
certainly a Rebel, Rebel is the righteous name that
Washington bore and why should not we bear the same
Good bye write soon. Annie

July 12 1863

This is a very rainy day and being in the house with nothing at all on, some naturally but as you all would to god I could see you - once more I'll sister you know not (and not want you may never know) the different this one has to contend with in an enemies line. Our dear sister's suffer is no more she died on the 7th June in bright and happy christian- exhibiting a state of mind in heaven. For some days we thought she only had a common headache but although in medicine and finding no relief I went for Dr Clark & W. Clem who pronounced it brain fever and gave me some attention but to no effect she still continued to sit we were finding that she could not live I thought it better to take her which I did and with all the faith and confidence I could command pronounced her to Christ the only saviour of mankind and in the most simple and earnest manner directed her to the hope set before us in the gospel and said you have been here to have seen with what earnestness and prayer she seized hold of the promise of god and how happy she was though suffering in body her mind was full of the glory of god such triumph of grace I never witnessed among one who saw her though it was the most astonishing manifestation of divine grace

ever seen. (Whenever the pain would permit she would either say to us that we had now calling her angels waiting to conduct her to heaven or wish us to be good observers and meet her in a better form or request her to write all the earnestness of an old soldier, I sometimes she would call me and myself to her side and say that we would not live so long to take care of our children she would talk of a very poor & small paper and beg me that I would write to you both and tell you how happy she had died and that you must not let this evil word make you forget god and that I should like Abigail's copy he would love to see and meet her in heaven I could not begin to tell you all the many interesting things we saw about her all the things she was how perfectly happy she was and how full of death about 6 hours before she died she called to her ma and told her how and in what she should be laid out in where she would be buried when she would die &c making all her arrangements as if she was about to take a long journey and with all the coolness and assurance of an old man truly the Lord has taken her to himself as another the to himself in to him and may his grace ever keep us close to his bleeding side. Sister pray for

6 you poor unfortunate Brother that we
though unworthy may be kept by the power
of God unto salvation

P.S. I would write more but have no room and cannot send a very thick
letter I could write 50 pages if I could
tell me all the news need not be afraid the
Yankees will see it for they will not those too, xx X... have to say No
doctors very often ask if we hear from Ryeldon but we have to say No
our cousin Sissie as I have written a few lines to Huntly though
I would write a few to you also to let you know that we are all
well at present well for myself I am ^{not} very well at present I received
your very welcome letter bearing date June 30 and was very glad to hear
from you all. You spoke of Lee's army and said you did not know
where they were I can tell you they are in Maryland and Pennsylvania
blazing wild work with the Yankees. the Yankees have been up
to Richmond but are now retreating back again they admit
themselves that they met with warm reception I was very sorry
to hear of the fall of Vicksburg the Yankees began it terribly
they say that they will soon conquer the South but God will save
the South. I was very glad to hear of Cousin Willie's promotion but was
very sorry to hear of so many deaths among our poor Hampton people
Cousin Phillips was a prisoner down here but has been exchanged
Tell Mrs Judd that Billie is with Mrs Smith he comes to see us
very often Mrs Smith has been a very kind friend to us she stayed
with us all the time that poor dear little Sannett was sick she told
me to ask you if you would be so kind as to forward this letter to her
sons for her it is already directed where she wants it to go you will
much oblige her by so doing write to Uncle George Wallis for me and tell
him to write to me tell him that Aunt Margaret his wife is in very bad
health not expected to live long has the consumption very bad Mr Adelle
is in Baltimore have heard from him twice has been very kind to us
the Yankee have a very fine Negro school in Hampton 300000 dollars
and three white teachers My dear Cousin I hope we will live to meet
once more but sometimes I think I will not today I got a spider
in my ear stayed in three hours and was very painful but got it
out again I thought I was going to die but I hope if we never
meet again on earth I hope we will all meet in heaven where there
will be no Yankees Jessie sends you a few lines the first she
ever wrote I have no news worth relating as every thing is very quiet
at present except the army coming down on the peninsula they are
sending all their troops to protect Washington but it is rumored
that Lee has retreated back to protect Richmond but I do not believe
that you must write soon again nothing affords me more pleasure than
to receive a letter from you all Pa and Ma and all the children are also
talking about you all and say they want to see you very much please write all
love tell Uncle Jesse to write to us also when you write tell me all the news
you did before give my love to Maria please write as soon as you get this your Cousin
wrote

Good Bye

(believe first of letter was written by
Thomas Peek, Sr.
second part written by Ann E. Hope)

copy ink

Simpsons Farm near Hampton
June 22nd 1863

Dear Sister

I had expected you would have written before this but have been disappointed and shall look no longer for a letter but take up the old proverb out of sight out of mind but not so with me there is hardly a day that I do not think of you all particularly yourself and Brother Jessy I do not expect ever to see you again in this world but if not I trust in god to meet you in Heaven for that happy place I am trying to live and in hope of it I expect to die. Which I came very near week before last, when out fishing the canoe sunk with me about 500 yards from the shore the wind was very high I swam as long as I could and then turned on my back either to float to the shore or drown - being exhausted when I after floating sometime I touched bottom and was safe. But lost my pocket book with about \$50. In it every cent I had to save my life and came up to the house. Jenny left but I am again on my feet a doing tolerably well. Dr. Clark the Yankee surgeon from Chesapeake Hospital was looking at me all the while I was in the water and certified to Gen. Dirck how I lost my pay got me another.

Doctor Clark & Allen have been very kind to us indeed. Annie will now write.

Dear Aunt

As Pa has left room for me to write I will drop you a few lines. I am not very well at present but hope you are all well. I heard that Sisy got my letter and have been expecting to hear from you all but have not tell her she must answer my letter very soon, Doctor Clark & Allen have been very kind, little Jannett is dead she died on the ninth of June in full hope of glory she was a great sufferer she was sick three weeks and was ill two weeks all her talk was about you and Uncle Jesse and the secret she said if Uncle Jesse was to attend her she would get well, but was perfectly willing to die and to go ^{to} her Lord, she sent her love to you all and said you must meet her in heaven she talked so much about you she said she loved you dearly. Those two Doctors I have mentioned attended her and were very attentive they are two very nice gentlemen.

Jannett went a bathing in May and the next day she was sick but went with Pa and Ma to Uncle Billies it was a very warm day she was taken very sick complained of the headach we thought it was a common headach and did not send for any Doctor - but she still continued to get worse so we sent for those Doctors. they had been coming here before visiting. They came and pronounced it the brain fever. They were very kind indeed to us. they brought us ice and every thing that we needed and did not charge a cent for any thing. She was buried very nicely except she did not have any one to read over her but Mr. Coliar one of our old Hampton men, Tell Aunt Mollie I have seen Fannie and Washington, they are living at Deneris keeping store, she sends her love to Miss Mollie and the children and Miss Jannett. I have seen Mammy Mary Irving she looks like old times has not altered one bit she

sends her love to all of you and says she wants to see you all so much she says give her love to her children and tell them she is well and wants to see them very much says tell them to write to her, old Aunt Mollie is dead I suppose you have heard it before, tell Sissy to write me all the news to write a long letter nothing affords me more pleasure than to receive a letter from any one of you all, I must now close as I have taken a long walk and am very tired give my love to Sissy Aunt Mollie Uncle Jessee and to all of my Cousins give my love to Lizzie Addington and Maria Jett and tell them to write to me. I wish I could be with you all so much inquire after Uncle Georg Watts for me and Mrs Whitings sons, you will much oblige me by so doing write as soon as you get this Ma, Jessie, and all the children send their love to you all. Nothing more good bye your affectionate Niece until death Annie E. Hope

let me here from you all soon tell Sissy to write tell her she must not think because I am down here with the Yankees that I have turned Yankee. I grow stronger Southern every day I am certainly a Rebel, Rebel is the rightous name that Washington bore and why should not we have the same
Good bye write soon Annie

July 12 1863

This is a very rainy day and being in the house with nothing to do my mind naturally returns to you all would to god I could see you once more. Oh sister you know not (and god grant you may never know) the difficulties one has to contend with in an enemies lines. Our dear little Jannett is no more she died on the 9th of June a bright and happy christan exhorting us all to meet her in heaven. For some days we thought she only had a common headach but after giving some medicine and finding no relief I went for Drs Clark & Allen who pronounced it brain fever and gave her every attention but to no effect she still continued to get worse finding that she could not live I thought it better to tell Ma which I did and with all the faith and confidence I could command pointed her to Christ the only saviour of mankind and in the most simple and earnest manner directed her to the hope set before us in the gospel and could you have been here to have seen with what earnestness and prayer she seized hold of the promise of god and how happy she was through suffering in body her mind was full of the glory of God such triumph of grace I never witnessed every one who saw her thought it was the most astonishing manifestation of devine grace ever seen. Whenever her pain would permit she would either say to me that her Lord was calling her angles waiting to conduct her to heaven or exhert us to be good christians and meet her in a better land or repeat her prayers with all the earnistness of an old soldier.

Sometimes she would call Ma and myself to her side and say that we would not have her long to take care of and then she would talk of Aunty Peek & Uncle Jessy and beg me that I would write to you both and tell you how happy she had died and that you must not let this evil war make you forget God and that I should tell Uncle Jessy he must love God and meet her in Heaven ! I could not begin to tell you all the many interesting things she said about you all

And to show how perfectly happy she was and how fearless of death about 6 hours before she died she called her Ma and told her how and in what she should be laid out in where she sould be buried when she would die &c &c making all her arrangements as if she was about to take a long journey and with all the

coolness and mimcia of and old head, truly the Lord has taken her to himself as another to bind us to him and may his grace ever keep us close to his bleeding side. Sister pray for your poor unfortunate Brother that he though unworthy may be kept by the power of God unto salvation.

Farewell Farewell
your brother
Good Bye

P. S. I would write more but have not room and cannot send a very thick letter I would write 50 pages if I could tell me all the news need not be affraid the yankees will see it - for they will not those too xxx . . . Doctors very often ask if we hear from Rebeldon but we say NO

Dear Cousin Sissie as I have written a few lines to Aunty I thought I would write a few to you also to let you know that - we are all well at present except myself I am not very well at present. I received your very welcome letter bearing date June 30th and was very glad to hear from you all. You spoke of Lee's Army and said you did not know where they were I can tell you they are in Maryland and Pennsylvania playing wild rook with the Yankees. The Yankees have been up to Richmond but are now retreating back again they admit themselves that they met with warm reception. I was very sorry to hear of the fall of Vicksburg. The Yankees bragon it terrible they say that they will soon conquer the south, but God will save the south. I was very glad to hear of Cousin Willie promotion but was very sorry to hear of so many deaths among our poor Hampton people. Sam Phillips was a prisoner down here but has been exchanged. Tell Mrs Rodd that Billie is with Mrs Smither he comes to see us very often. Mrs Smithers has been a very kind friend to us she stayed with us all the time that poor dear little Jannett was sick she told me to ask you if you would be so kind as to forward this letter to her sons for her it is already directed where she wants it to go you will much oblige her by so doing, write to Uncle George Watts for me and tell him to write to me tell him that Aunt Margaret his wife is in very bad health not expected to live long, has the consumption very bad. Mr Adler is in Baltimore have heard from him twice has been very kind to us. the Yankees have a very fine Negro School in Hampton over (300) scallars and three white teachers. My dear cousin I hope we will live to meet once more but sometimes I think I will not today I got a spider in my ear stayed in there three hours and was very painful but got it out again I thought I was going to die but I hope if we never meet again on earth I hope we will all meet in heaven where there will be no Yank - ees. Jessie sends you a few lines the first she ever wrote. I have no news worth relating as everything is very quiet except the army coming down on the Pennsular they are sending all their troops to protect Washington but it is rumered that Lee has retreated back to protect Richmond but I do not believe that. You must write soon again nothing affords me more pleasure that to receive a letter from you all, Pa & Ma and all the children are always talking about you all and say they want to see you very much please write all send love tell Uncle Jessie to write to us also when you write tell me all the news like you did before give my love to Maria please write as soon as you get this.

Your Cousin until death
Annie E. Hope

Mr. Dr. Rodis. Bagnell
Carlisle Penn
June 28th 83,

Dear Dick -

Enclosed you will find a letter to yourself, which was received some this morning. I shall yourself up now - its from the "General"!!!

I can see you now, when you get it - jumping up and dancing around your room and making by vaulting over your bed several times. yet the 'long' look'd far - no - one at East - I at first thought it was from my sister, and opening it found it was from her. But I suppose you had no objection to it. I was surprised at seeing it, although it will be a satisfaction to you - I know. He got several letters from home today. One dated the 11th of this month. All were well and I heard all about the raid - Cousin Mackay's marriage and all about the boys. Jack & Mack both wrote me long letters, and gave me an account of the fight. It was a most outrageous affair - A force of yanks not larger than would surprise the town and burned the factories and a good many houses - Mrs. Soule's Hall & Portlocks & Riggs' shops - They searched our house - took my gun and one of them came into the house and cursing Mrs. told her he intended to burn her house - She started towards

the door with that intention and was
lowered twice, several nearly out of her
mind - when she young offortanely came
up to the front gate and seeing Mrs
atention started in. The father turned
around and raised his gun. Some
time he would shoot him if he
attempted to come in. It is probable
she finally quieted him. You may well
imagine Mrs's fright, I am glad I was
at there. It would have been for all
the good much, it is just like the
she is a sweet woman and I hope to be
the better friend for her. I have
I am not to go home soon. I have
of Ada has been appointed over this brig-
and of course Pa will resign. He has not
come yet. I wish he had come. Ma wrote me
that Pa would start on the 15th for Pa. To
me no. If she comes you must let me know
about it, and tell her where to direct
me will have a light in a day or so.
You must tell me all the news. Jack
had his fine horse shot. Jack writes
to Pa that he wants to "best remove the
that kind kind and be an officer, Cousin
Ada also wrote me a long letter - nothing
else I believe - All are well - Love to all
your family - Truly your friend
Edw. O'Keefe

(letter to George Peek from Ed. A. O'Neal, Jr. C.S. Army)

2 pg pencil

Hd. Qrs. Rodes Brigade
Carlisle, Tenn
June 28th - 63

Dear Peek -

Enclosed you will find a letter to yourself, which was received soon this morning, Spruce yourself up now - it from the "Queen. " !!!!

I can see you now, when you get it - jumping up and dancing around your room and ending by vaulting over your bed several times. Yes the long looked for has come at last - I first thought it was from my sister, and opening it found it was from her, But I suppose you have no objections to it. I was delighted at seeing it, although it will not satisfy you - I know. We got several letters from home today. One dated the 11th of this month. All were well and I heard all about the boys. Jack & Wash both wrote me long letters, and gave me an account of the fight. It was a most outrageous affair - A force of Yanks not larger than Roddys surprised the town and burned the factories and a good many houses - Ma - Sonie Neall Portlocks & I'ugrahas shops - They searched our house - took my gun and one of them came into the house and cursing Ma told her he intended to burn her house - He started towards the door with that intention and Ma followed him, scared nearly out of her wits - when Dr Young opportunely came up to the front gate and seeing Ma's situation started in. The Yankee turned round and raised his gun and told him he would shoot him if he attempted to come it. Dr. Y. protested and finally quited him, you may well imagine Ma's fright, I am glad I was not there as it would have exasperated me too much. It is just like the Dr. He is a noble man and I hope to be able to repay him for his kindness -

I expect to go home soon. Col John T. Morgan of Ala. has been appointed over this Brigade and of course Pa will resign. He has not come yet, I wish he had come, Ma wrote me that Pa would start on the 15th for Va. to see us. If she comes you must let me know all about it, and tell here where direct.

We will have a fight in a day or so you must write one all the news. Nash has his fine horse shot - Jack writes to Pa that he wants to "burst asunder the bounders that fired him " and be an officer, cousin Alex also wrote me a long letter - nothing else I believe - All are well - Love to all your family -

Truly your friend
Ed A. O'Neal, Jr

Sunday we marched all day and got here on our way to Jackson who is just across the mountains - we are now at the foot of the Blue Ridge - and as some of our Divisions (Ewell's 12000 strong) has gone on we expect soon to go and fight a battle with Banks in which we will defeat him.

When we reached our camp here, Alick (Alick) suggested that he and I should take out to look for supper and we did so - went to a gentleman's home who said he would divide his last coat with a Hamptonian or a Marylander. He gave us a splendid supper, invited us to stay all night or come to breakfast in the morning - which latter we did - also supper the next day - He gave us some biscuits which Alick put in his haversack and some kind friend stole them from him.

Since we have been here Alick & I have slept out on the ground and finely too - for we lie pretty close together and keep warm all night.

At present it threatens rain very strongly but my tent is pitched & I can keep dry in it. If we have to march thro' it will be very bad for me. I wish I had my leggins and my cap cover - They would keep me dry. I sent to Squabburg by young Haley for an oil cloth and to get my Spectacles mended wh. I accidentally broke my first night on the ground. My health is pretty good - a slight cold which I had before I joined the regiment - I wrote to Mr Houseworth to send his bill for board to Pa.

Done to all -

Tuesday morning -

Willie -

Cca June 1863]

(William Hope Peek)
B

1 pg pencil

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When we reached our camp here Aleck (Halsey) suggested that he and I should strike out to look for supper - and we did so - went to a gentleman's house who said he would divide his last crust with a Hamptonian or a Marylander. He gave us a splendid supper, invited us to stay all night or come to breakfast in the morning which latter we did - also supper the next day - He gave us some biscuits which Aleck put in his haversack but some kind friend stole them from him.

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Love to all -
Willie -

Tuesday morning.

Camp 2 ^{on} board.

Dear Ma -

I send by Mr. Berry fifty (50) dollars - as, if I keep it, it ~~will~~ ^{would} perhaps melt away too suddenly - I shall endeavor hereafter to send 50 or 60 every month.

There is no news in camp now - Another Assistant Surgeon has been assigned to the Regt. and I am now acting Surgeon, or as we say Assistant Surgeon in Charge, we have heard nothing from Dr. Davies to warrant us in the belief he is living - His wife fainted away when she heard he was shot. Her nephew writes Mr. Berry a handsome letter - She is very anxious to see him if he be still living -
Make Sis write often -

Yours affectionately
Willie

[ca June 1863]

1 pg pencil

(William Hope Peek)

Camp 2 Va Cavly.

Dear Ma,

I send by Mr. Berry fifty (50) dollars - as, if I keep it, it would perhaps melt away too suddenly - I shall endeavor hereafter to send 50 or so every month.

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Make Sis write often -

Yours affectionately,

Willie

Camp near Williamsport Md.

July 8 1863.

My Dear Sis.

Since I wrote my last letter we have had a series of terrific battles near Gettysburg Pa. The fighting continued for 3 days without any intermission and the last was the hottest of all.

The Yankees were whipped and driven back the first two days, but they retired obstinately and slowly, until they got to a very strong position which they strongly fortified and mounted with 40 pieces of artillery. We opened on them with 110 pieces & there was a perfect continuous roar of artillery. Pickett's Division charged the crest and captured every piece of artillery but the fire was so galling they were compelled to fall back with the loss of every Brigadier and more

than half the men and officers of the division. It was a fortunate thing that Corse's Brigade was not there, for many a poor Hamptonian would have measured his length on Yankee soil. The slaughter was horrible. Every Yankee around those 40 pieces of artillery was shot down and immense numbers were killed the first two days. It is thought however that the Yankees did us as much harm the 3^d day as we did them the first two days.

The army I believe has fallen back from Pennsylvania and is now in Maryland. There seems to be no sign of any retreat into Virginia.

The Yankees have been raiding, it around our wagons - and once succeeded in capturing about 75.

I thought at one time I should ~~have~~ certainly be taken, and it wd. have gone very hard with me

for I was positively ill at the time and they kill all their prisoners who can't keep up with them.

I have had a severe attack of my liver affection and suffered intense agony - riding in a wagon over a very rough road, but am getting better now.

I am now resting as it were at our wagon camp, while the Assistant Surgeon is doing duty with the regiment - They had a small skirmish yesterday and lost one or two men, but the cavalry have not been exposed to one tithe of the danger the infantry have gone through.

Like all the rest I am getting tired of this side of the Potomac and am anxious to set my foot once more on Virginia soil.

I shall write whenever I can. The old saying is that "No news is always good news"

Affect
Wm

(William Hope Peek)
49

3 pg ink

Camp near Williamsport Md.
July 8, 1863.

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Affect
Willie

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49

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Affect
Willie

MISSING PAGE(S)

Of the result I can tell you
nothing - You will find out
more about it - and sooner than
I can - I could not even tell you
anything definite about our cavalry
fight on our left flank, except
that we had ~~five~~ men wounded
in my regiment - one mortally.

I have seen innumerable
prisoners - large wagon trains
in the rear and any number of
men filling & blocking up the
roads - and in such confusion
one can find out very little
about the result of a fight.

Riding along the road today I
very unexpectedly met Billy Manow
He will find quartermaster business
little harder to perform in Pa.
than about Richmond -

I have heard any number of
rumors about our losses - how
whole regiments - have been
annihilated & all the officers of

of brigades shot down. These
tales I never believe -

It is really a pity that a
country so fertile & so well farmed
as some parts of this, should be in
the hands of this miserable ignorant
dutch population. The coosmen are very
deceitful and only hide part of their
wickedness. for they are frequently base
to their knees. It seems the height of
their ambition is to have a cart, barrow
and a fat horse. Their barrows are
immense & horses great big clumsy
things.

When we shall get back to Dr. Doust
I'll certainly we will remain
away longer than last fall. I write
this not knowing when you will
ever get it.

Yours affly.

W. S. P.

(William Hope Peek)
50

2 pg pencil

(last half of letter after
Battle of Gettysburg)

of the result I can tell you nothing - You will find out more about it - and sooner than I can. I could not even tell you anything definite about our cavalry fight on our left flank, except that we had five men wounded in my regiment - one mortally.

I have seen innumerable prisoners - large wagon trains in the rear and any number of men filling & blocking up the roads - and in such confusion one can find out very little about the result of a fight -

Riding along the road today I very unexpectedly met Billy Marrow. He will find quartermasters' business little harder to perform in Pa. than about Richmond.

I have heard any number of rumors about our losses - now whole regiments have been annihilated & all the officers of brigades shot down - These tales I never believe -

It is really a pity that a country so fertile & so well formed as some parts of this, should be in the hands of this miserable ignorant dutch population. The women are very sloven and only hide part of their nakedness for they are frequently bare to their knees. It seems the height of their ambition is to have a large barn and a fat horse. Their barns are immense & horses great big clumsy things.

When we shall get back to Va. I cant tell. Certainly we will remain away longer than last fall - I write this not knowing when you will even get it -

Yours affecty
W. H. P.

Head Quarters 2nd Va. Cav^l

July 19th/63

The^l. Peck Esq^r Richmond Va

Dear Sir

It is my painful duty to announce the death of your son Dr^r ~~Wm~~ Peck ~~son~~ of our regt. He was taken on the morning of the 12th July about 8 o'clock with congestion of the liver, at 3^o ~~o~~ P.M. same day, ^{he} went into a stupor and remained in that state until 8¹/₂ o'clock on the morning of the 13th when he breathed his last. He had every attention and all that medical skill could do for him. Our army was falling back at the time, pressed by the enemy, which rendered it impossible for me to bring his body to Virginia. he was interred at Williamsport Md. I have charge of his effects which I will send ~~at~~ you the first opportunity.

Very Resp^t Th^o C^o Douglass
Hospital Steward 2nd Va Cav^l

(William Hope Peek)

51

1 pp - 11/13

Head Quarters 2nd Va. Cavl.
July 19th/63

Thos. Peek Esq. Richmond Va.

Dear Sir,

It is my painful duty to anounce the death of your son Dr. Wm. H. Peek of our regt. He was taken on the morning of the 12th July about 8 o'clock with congestion of the liver, at 3 o'clock P.M. same day he went into a stupor and remained in that state until 8 1/2 o'clock on the morning of the 13th when he breathed his last. He had every attention and all the medical skill could do for him. Our army was falling back at the time, pressed by the enemy, which rendered it impossible for one to bring his body to Virginia. he was interred at Williamsport M.d. I have charge of his effects which I will send you the first opportunity.

Very Respt. Thos. V. Douglas
Hospital Steward 2nd Va. Cavl.

Thursday Aug 7th 1863.

My dear Brother;

Your ~~answer~~^{letter} in answer to my last^{ly} was received to night. I feel the loss of our noble brother more and more. We have sent Billie to the army for his trunk wh. would be a precious treasure to us, but he could not find the regiment, it having^d gone out on a scout, and consequently his trunk has not reached us yet. Billie says there was not an officer in the regt with whom he was not intimately acquainted, and ~~not~~ a man who did not love him. We received a letter of sympathy from C. K. Mallory a few days ago, saying that he could fully appreciate our sufferings from the loss of his noble boy. We have had a very bloody fight recently at Brandy Station but none of our friends were there. It was reported some time ago by Bob Curtis who was here wounded that Jesse Jones was killed and Jack Wray severely wounded all of which is untrue.

Bro Johnny has been very much troubled recently on account of going in the army, the baby having been taken from him at last, but he has succeeded through the influence of Col O'Neal in getting a fine clerkship in the war department. Col O'Neal, (Georgia strong friend of much political influence) in Ala, has been staying with us for some days. He is endeavoring to be promoted, and expected it today. His son is also with us. You need not trouble about the calico, as we have gotten some. I was glad to hear that had no use for liquor, I hope you will promise faithfully to yourself never to drink away from home. Be careful and if you deserve a reward you will surely get it. Oh and be a Christian, may God bless you. Daniel will send you some papers tomorrow. Ma says take care of yourself and write often. Most truly
yours

66

James M. Wells
New York
N.Y.

1850

1850

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in the left column, possibly a list or ledger entries.]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text in the right column, possibly a list or ledger entries.]

(letter from Maria S. Peek - Sis)
to Charles

1 pg ink

Thursday Aug 7" 1863..

My dear Brother

Your letter in answer to my last was received tonight. I feel the loss of our noble brother more and more. We have sent Billie to the army for his trunk wh. would be a precious treasure to us, but he could not find the regiment, it having gone out on a scout and consequently his trunk has not reached us yet. Billie says there was not an officer in the Regt. with whom he was not intimately acquainted, and not a man who did not love him. We received a letter of sympathy from C K Mallory a few days ago, saying that he could fully appreciate our suffering from the loss of his noble boy. We have had a very bloody fight recently at Brandy Station but none of our friends were there. It was reported some time ago by Bob Curtis who was here wounded that Jesse horse was killed and Jack Wray severly wounded all of which is untrue.

Bro Johnny has been very much troubled recently on account of going in the army, the bakery having been taken from him at last, but he has succeeded through the influence of Col O'Neal in getting a fine clerkship in the war department. Col O'Neal, Georgie's strong friend of much political influence in Ala, has been staying with us for some days. He is endeavoring to be promoted, and expects it today. His son is also with us. You need not trouble about the calico, as we have gotten some. I was glad to hear that had no use for liquor, I hope you will promise faithfully to yourself never to drink away from home. Be careful and if you deserve a reward you will surely get it. Try and be a christian, may God bless you. Daniel will send you some papers tomorrow. Ma says take care of yourself and write often.

Devoted Sis

Sept 3rd 1863.

Dr Chauncy, Your letter was received
some days ago, but with it I received
two from the Army pertaining to
Willie's effects, and, therefore, I hurried
there as quick as possible leaving
your letter unanswered. We have re-
ceived our brother's trunk, would to
God we could have received him in
our arms in stead! His ring and
watch were received with his trunk
&c. - They received me at the
army with much respect as the
brother of their late Surgeon whom
they say was very highly respected
and appreciated by the whole
regiment -

You ask about the cloth. Well
I have ascertained that I cannot
draw from the Q.M. because
he has none - so they say - so there
if you want cloth you had better buy or
wait till you come to Richmond
if you think there is a chance of your
settling here. But you need not be

uneasy. I can always get
clock from my purses, who is
a great friend of mine.

You should, however, wear
your old coats and pantloons
on ship and save as far as
possible your nice uniform
clothes. One good suit of
uniform with some other odds
and ends should last you
at least 12 months.

We are all well. Max will
make your collars and will
have any clothes made you want

Willie Stone has been to see
us and so has brother Eddie
since Willie's death, or I may
say in language that betters us -
presses the deep affliction of my
soul - "Since God hath taken away
our idol". But let us revive
Mr. Berry says, "His life was that of a
consistent Christian: he could not have
asked any more from the most strenuous
advocates of the Cross - He was blameless."
Let us endeavor to meet him in Heaven
good by - Wm. A. G. Gung.

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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clock from my parents, who is
a great friend of mine.

You should, however, wear
your old coats and pantloom
on ship and save as far as
possible your nice uniform
clothes. One good suit of
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and ends should last you
at least 12 months.

We are all well. Maxwell
make you collars and will
have any clothes made you want
Willie Stores has been to see
us and so has brother Eddie
since Willie's death, or I may
say in language that better us -
presses the deep affliction of my
soul - "Since God hath taken away
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Mr. Berry says, "His life was that of a
consistent Christian: he could not have
acted any more from the most strenuous
advocate of the Cross - He was blameless."
Let us endeavor to meet him in Heaven
God by Yours aff. bro. Gung.

(George Meridyth Peek)

3

2 pg ink

Sept 3 -1863.

Dear Charley,

Your letter was received some days ago, but with it I received two from the Army pertaining to Willies effects, and therefore I hurried there as quick as possible leaving your letter unanswered. We have received our brothers trunk. Would to God we could have received him in our arms in stead! His ring and watch were received with his trunk &c They received me at the Army with much respect as the brother of their late Surgeon-whom they say was very highly respected and appreciated by the whole regiment.

You ask about the cloth. Well I have ascertained that I can not draw from the Q.M. because he has none - So they Say - So then if you want cloth you had better - buy on wait till you come to Richmond if you think there is a chance of your getting here. But you need not be uneasy I can always get cloth from my purser , who is a great friend of mine.

You should, however, wear your old coats and pantloom on ship and save as far as possible your nice uniform clothes.- One good suit of uniform with some other odds and ends should last you at least 12 months-

We are all well, Ma will make you collars and will have any clothes made you want

Billie Stores has been to see us. and so has brother Eddie since Willies death, or I may say in language that better expresses the deep affection of my soul - "Since God heth taken away our idol" But let us revive Mr Berry Says "His life was that of a consistant christian he could not have asked any more from the most strenious advocate of the cross - He was blameless" Let us endeavor to meet him in Heaven.

Good bye.

Your aff. Bro. George

Wauwaton, N. B. Sept. 6th 1863.

Dearest Janet,

This is the second time that I have written you within the last yr. & weeks. My letter has not yet reached you as I know you would have answered. I am deeply grieved Janet more so than words can express to hear of dear Phillis' death, but I know you are aware of my deepest sympathy without any outward testimony of it. We must endeavor to recognize the hand of Divine Providence even in this cruel dispensation. In this your hour of trouble and affliction I long to be with you. I too, am unhappy and miserable, but I am in a strange land and among strangers compelled at times to smile and be pleasant when my heart aches. I was in hopes some time since of returning to Richmond this fall but now that is impossible as the case of

Lead them on far beyond my means.

Mr. ^{and} still with our kind friends Mr & Mrs
Wood, I feel sometimes almost dependant
as I know they cannot make anything at
the present exorbitant prices for provisions and
Lara is for \$30 a month. They seem to be
perfectly satisfied and will not consent to
raise our board.

James received a letter from Mr Gammet
last night saying that Mr Charles Mallory
had written for him to go to Liberty, Pa.,
and had kindly offered to assist him in getting
some employment there. He expects to go there
this week. Does he expect an increase in his
family? I am inclined to think so, because
Mama never writes us a line. Do write me
word if it is so. I sincerely hope that I
am mistaken. How is Pigeon? How I
woud like to see her! Tell her Lizzie says
she would have written to her long ago but
after so cruelly and wilfully treating her

promise to Mr H. — she knew that you all
had lost all confidence in her and would
not care to hear from her. She says it is
unmade. I think she was perfectly justifiable
in changing her mind in the matter, when I see
you. I'll tell you more about it.

Mr. Lee, a young midshipman on the Patriot
flag, was here a few weeks since, though
he had been from our little Georgie, you
could imagine how proud I felt to have him
so highly spoken of. Tell Lizzie to write
me now soon and tell me of every member of
the family. It was a so much a pleasure to me
to hear from you all. Do not forget to
tell me about Maria, I am very anxious to hear
from her. You can get from Saml the desired
information. Please write me a long letter. My
dear Janet, and tell me all about yourself.
I shall anxiously look for it. Lizzie & James
desire to be affectionately remembered by you all.
Grimm is with her father, he will not come here
to me. Do write as soon as you get this.
Love to all. Sincerely and affectionately yours
Mary Ann.

New York N. York.
Richmond
Ct.

(letter to Mrs. Janet Peek from
Mary Ann)

3 pg ink

Warentin N C Sept 6th 1863

Dear Janet,

This is the second time that I have written you within the last few weeks. My letter has not yet reached you as I know you would have answered. I am deeply grieved Janet more so than words can express to hear of dear Willie's death, but I know you are aware of my deepest sympathy without any outward testimony of it. We must endeavor to recognize the hand of Devine Providence even in this cruel desprensation. In this, your hour of trouble and afflection. I long to be with you, I too am unhappy and miserable. Here I am in a strange land and among strangers compelled at times to smile or be plesant when my heart ackes. I was in hopes some time since of returning to Richmond this fall. But now that is impossible as the cost of board are far beyond my means.

We are still with our kind friend Mr & Mrs Womood, I feel sometimes almost dependent as I know they cannot make anything at the present exort-
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Gus Lee a young midshipman, on the Patrick Henry, was here a few weeks since, through him we heard from our little Georgie, you can't imagine how proud I felt to hear him so highly spoken of. Tell Sissie to write one very soon and tell me of every member of the family. It would be much a pleasure to me to hear from you all. Do not forget to tell me about Maria, I am very anxious to hear from her, you can get from Hamet the desired information. Please write me a long letter my dear Janet, and tell me all about yourself. I shall anxiously look for it. Lizzie & James desire to be affectionately remembered by you all. Ginnie is with her father, he will not send her to me. Do write as soon as you get this.

Love to all.

Sincerely and affectionately yours
Mary Ann.

Mrs says she is very glad to hear of your going to Church, & thinks it very worthy conduct myself. How manly and how elevated a man's character is when he acknowledges God, as his Father and his Guide.

Richmond Sept. 10th 1863.

My dear Brother

I received yours of the first, on Monday and will be prompt in replying. The \$20 arrived in safety and your collars will be ready for you when you come as I reckon, we shall not have an opportunity of sending them. Georgie has some cloth here and now intends making you a pair of pants also; the suit you spoke of wanting was for every day & exposure, and this cloth Georgie has is the very thing and enough for pants for you, pa, and himself. Have n't you been able to get a jacket out of the navy? Mrs says you must spend your money for anything you needs as she gets along very well now.

I don't think I have written to you since Georgie has returned from the army. He went up to see about his Willie's trunk, and other things. The trunk he found at the Richmond Depot, where it had been some time, and the letter telling us it was sent, had lain a fortnight in the Post Office through the clerks neglect, we cannot believe otherwise, well, the trunk had evidently been robbed, his uniform coat, vest, and overcoat were the only things of any importance in there

There were no pants, no shirts of any consequence, no books, no stars in his coat. At his death ~~the~~ Hospital Steward took charge of everything together with the pocket book which contained \$100 in state money, \$5 in gold and some Confederate change, and wrote no word that he had the pocket book, and would keep it until he could see a safe way of sending it, or some one of his brothers could come up there. When ~~the~~ ~~bro~~ ~~ther~~ ~~got~~ ~~them~~, the Steward gave the pocket book to him with not a single cent in it, and his uniform pants he had in his valise. Evidently he and nobody else, is the source of this shameful robbery. It has been proven to us by evidence founded on good authority that he is a rogue, a liar, and a consummate villain.

Georgie said he felt so badly, that he could not say anything to him, and therefore did not investigate the matter; and there it will ever rest. It is very distressing to know that he should have been robbed in such a manner.

I spent the evening at aunt Ludes yesterday with Lennie I was treated as kindly and as unobtrusively as is aunt Ludes usual manner to her friends. I have given the children holiday this morning and they have gone with the cart and Lin to search for chinquapons. Heard from Mr Eddie Saturday. He was still at City-Point.
Write soon to your loving Sis.

(letter to Charles Peek from
Maria S. Peek - Sis)

2 pg ink

Richmond Sept 10th 1863

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(NOTE) on top of first page

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(NOTE) on top of first page

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Camp Batter Brigade

October 3rd 1863 -

Dear Sir,

Your favor of August was received about the 20th I wish this respecting a fasten and had only my way, enough to carry me ^(home) - I regret exceedingly that I could not comply with our friends Col Ord's wish in sending you the money - I should have sent it straight way and deprived myself of it, and I have got Ord's very right to expect the payment of the note - The understanding was that the money should be paid in New York - I am now prepared to give you the money and I shall hold it subject to your order - Please order me what I shall do with it.

I have not seen or heard from Col Ord since the letter you sent me - I am expecting ^{news} ~~something~~ daily - There is no news, and I am enclosed with the stereotyped telegram -

"All quiet on the Rappahannock"

With kindest wishes,

Maj-George Peck

Yrs. friendly opponent -

(letter to Maj. George Peek
from T.M. Moore)

1 pg. note

Camp Battles Brigade
Oct 3rd 1863

Dear Sir :

Your favor of August was received about the 20th. I was then expecting a furlough and had only money enough to carry me home. I regret exceedingly that I could not comply with our friend's Col. O'Neal's wish in sending you the money - I should have sent it any way and deprived myself of it had I given Col. O'Neal any reply to expect the payment of the note here - The understanding was that the money should be paid in Huntsville - I am now prepared to pay you the money and I shall hold it subject to your order - Please write me what I shall do with it.

I have not seen or heard from Col. O'Neal since the letter you sent me - I am expecting some news daily - There is no news, and I may conclude with the stereotyped telegram -

" All quite on the Ropedam "

With kindness wishes
Yr friend

T.M. Moore

Maj - George Peek

Richmond Oct 4. 1863.

My dear Brother,

I will join Georgie in his letter though I may not have a great deal to tell you. Your letter requesting the make of a tobacco bag was received, and the bag would have been made but for pa's sickness. I shall make it next week. I am glad to say that pa is better today; and sitting up. Lizzie and aunt Pigeon have gone to church. The former is as "bad as ever" and the house frequently reverberates with the sound of her laughter or aunt Pigeon screaming at some of Lizzie's games on "North Calino". We had a lively party here Thursday night and a sociable time in the basement. The "homefolks" Drs. Conway, Goodlet, and Harris, with Lizzie and Cousin Mary Ann composed our little party. Aunt Judy and Bennie were over yesterday. She letter not well having had three teeth extracted that day. I hope you have gone to church this lovely day. You must continue that good practice it will never cause you to be ashamed. How much better we could all be if we always kept before our minds the solemn truth that God's searching eye was upon us. I suppose you received Jesse's letter, of which he was very proud and to which he expects an answer. He spoke of Billie Westwood's being badly wounded. He has had a hemorrhage from his wound recently, and we consider him poor fellow "bad off." He says all his patriotism was shot away.

We have not suffered from roques since I last wrote. Our ducks are growing, and almost large enough to be stolen. When you come if you can get any sugar from your commissary, bring a bundle to me. Write - soon to us. Yours lovingly

~~20~~ ~~19~~ ~~18~~ ~~17~~ ~~16~~ ~~15~~ ~~14~~ ~~13~~ ~~12~~ ~~11~~ = 19 x 17 x 13 x 11 x 7
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(Maria S. Peek) (Sis) (to Bro. Charles)

2

1 pg ink

Richmond Oct 4. 1863.

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We have not suffered from ravges since I last wrote. Our ducks are growing, and almost large enough to be stolen. When you come if you can get any sugar from your commissarry bring a bundle to ma. Write soon to your loving

Sis

Florence, Ala
Oct 19th A.D. 1863

My Dear Dick;

Not a word - message or any thing else have I received from you, since I left the 'Old Dominion.' I hardly know whether you are still in the land of the living. The south-west has resounded with the clanging of arms, and the unceasing boom of artillery, for the last two months, and were now the country is awaiting in breathless anticipation, the result of the contest in the mountains of East Tennessee, Virginia the mother of states and heroes has extended a helping hand, and the far-famed heroes of the Red-bankamock, are vying with their less experienced brethren of the South, in dealing death-blows to the wily and renowned Rosecrans. The eagle of victory has already perched herself on our banners, and soon our foes baffled and beaten will be compelled to seek refuge on the banks of the Ohio. God grant that this much

To be desired and may soon come, and
our blood country to forever free
from the asserating foot of the in-
vader. Procrastination - The root of all
evil, has hitherto been the course of our
western Army, but now the word should
be forward! and never stop until every
foeman is driven from our soil. Our epis-
tence as a nation depends on it. Fortbear-
ance is no longer a virtue with us. The people
are gloomy, and weary of this "never ending
- still beginning" strife, and victory alone
will revive their drooping spirits.

But I suppose you would much prefer, my
telling you something new, but war & battle
are the all absorbing topics now, and my
'dander' always rises when I get to thinking
of Bragg's course. Yet I will desist from
speaking of wars & rumours &c and come
now to matters of fact - incidents &c.
Old Florence still exists and like old Rip-
Van-Winkle is several months if not years
in rear of all the rest of the world. We take
things easy, and in the bliss of ignorance

care not "how the world wags." The Queen
of beauty - has arrived in Florence and her
majestic form and step, rivaling the Goddess
of the Heavens - may be seen when Twilight
hours come - not gliding through the heavens - but
quietly walking up Main Street. She seems to
think a good deal of her friend My Peck
but do what I will I cannot get her to
say anything more explicit. But "faint heart
never won fair lady" so 'til Desperandum!

I wrote you and Tucker a long letter
by Papa which I presume you received.
I told you if you recollect that I had
been made Adj't of a Cavalry Regiment that
Jones was raising, but he has given it out
after having almost completed it. I shall
therefore join Sloss in a few days. I will
have an easy time as you know.

I wrote to Tucker by Pa to get me a good pair
of steel spurs, and I will trouble you to see
about them. Also, when Pa returns to R-
flourish it on him to bring or send
my Daddie to me as soon as possible.
It is impossible to get anything of the sort,

There is nothing new here. Jack is still with slow. Jack is here - says he is a St. but I don't know of what. You must write by every opportunity. Ma & Dad send their love.

Your friend
 Ed. A. O'Keefe



1st class - 8 46 10 8 4 1 20
 2nd class - 3 45 4 5 1 20
 3rd class - 46 30
 4th class - 45
 5th class - 45
 6th class - 46 45
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67 100 2000 2
 67 4
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Dr. G. - two forms to return
 Conference No. 2 of 100 of your...

8 36.30
 8 37.5 1 1/2
 4 40 20 20
 8 38 (28) 7 8
 4 41 40
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 3 52 42 17
 8 42 20 8
 3 56 45 9 4
 8 42 20
 3 46 40
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 8 42 20
 8 42 20

(Written to George M. Peek by Ed O'Neal Jr.)

3 1/2 pg ink

Florence, Ala

Oct 19th A.D. 1863

My Dear Peek :

Not a word - message or any thing else have I received from you, since I left the "Old Dominion" I hardly know who ther you are still in the land of the living. The Southwest has resounded with the clang of armies, and the unceassing boom of Artillery, for the last two months, and even now the country is awaiting in breathless anticipation, the result of the contest in the mountains of East Tennessee, Virginia the mother of states and heroes has extended a helping hand, and the far-fawed heroes of the Rappahannock, are vieing with their less experienced brethern of the South, in dealing death blows to the wily and redouted Rosecraus. The eagle of victory has already perched herself on our breathern, and soon our foes baffled and beaten will be compelled to seek refuge on the banks of the Ohio. God grant that this much to be desired end may soon come, and our beloved country be forever free from the descrating foot of the invader. Procrastination - the root of all evil, has heretofore been the course of our Western Army, but now the word should be forward ! And never stop until every foeman is driven from our soil. Our existance as a nation depends on it. Forebearance is nolong avirtue with us. The people are gloomy, and weary of this "never ending - still beginning" strife, and victory alone will revive their drooping spirits.

But I suppose you would much prefer, my telling you something new, but war & battles are the all absorbing topics now, and my 'dander' always rises when I get to thinking of Boggs course. Yet I will desist from speaking of wars & rumours &c and come down to matters - of - fact - incidents &c.

Old Florence still exists and like old Rip Van - Winkle is several months if not years in rear of all the rest of the world. We take things easy in the bliss of ignorance.

Care not " how the world ways " The Queen - of beauty - has arrived in Florence and her majestic form & steps, rivalling the Goddess of the Heavens - jaws - may be seen when "Twilight hour comes"- not gliding through the heavens - but quietly walking up Main Street. She seems to think a good deal of her friend May Peek but do what I will I cannot get her to say anything more explecit, But " faint heart never won fair lady " so " nil desperaudune " !

I wrote you and Tucker a long letter by Papa which I presumed you received. I told you if you recollect that I had been made Adj. of a Cavalry Regmt. that Jones was raising, but he has given it out after having almost completed it. I shall therefore join Sloss in a few days. I will have a easy time as you know.

I wrote to Tucker by Pa to get me a good pair of steel spurs, and I will trouble you to see about them. Also, when Pa returns to R - please impress it on him to find or send my saddle to me as soon as possible. It is impossible to get anything of the sort, there is nothing new here. Wash is still with Sloss. Jack is here - says he is a Lt - but I dont know of what.

You must write every opportunity. Ma & Lum send their love.

(on outside)

Your friend

Dr Y - has gone to Pulaski to conference

Ed. A. O'Neal, Jr.

He speaks of you often.

Adj Spts 6th Va Regt
Camp near Brants Va
Oct 19th 1863

Dear Sir

Your letter of 8th inst making
inquiry concerning the death of your brother
Br Park was received on yesterday. I
was in charge of a Hospital at Williamsport, Md.
when your brother was brought to me for med-
ical treatment on the morning of July 13th.

I was shocked at his condition and truly
grieved to think that all attention had
been delayed until he was past recovery - he
was ~~totally~~ unconscious and survived about
an hour - The grave was marked with
his name and rank, circumstances making
it impossible to obtain any other than a
plain Coffin.

During the winter and spring
of 1862 I was on duty both at Man-
assas and Gordonsville with your

brother and we often meditated
that he was an energetic and most
accomplished young Physician, and
by his death the Army has lost
one of its most efficient officers.

In tendering my sympathies to
his afflicted

(William Hope Peek)

52

1 1/3 pg ink

Hd. Qtrs. 6th La. Regt.
Camp near Bristo Va.
Oct. 19th 1863

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 8th inst. making inquiry concerning the death of your brother Dr. Peek was received on yesterday - I was in charge of a Hospital at Williamsport, M.D. when your brother was brought to for medical treatment on the morning of July 13th - I was shocked at his condition and truly grieved to think that all attention had been delayed until he was past recovery - he was instantly unconscious and survived about an hour. - The grave was marked with his name and rank, circumstances making it impossible to obtain any other than a plain coffin.

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In tendering any sympathies to his afflicted.

Richmond, Va.
Oct. 3^d 1863.

My dear Charly, Your letter has been received some days since and I have been so busy as to make me postpone its answer till now. I am now writing from the table in the bastment at home. All are well except Pa who has been sick a bed for some days but is much better this evening and we hope will be out in a day or two. Sizzie and Cousin Mary (now) are here enjoying themselves - Cousin James was with us last night and tells me to write "that he has received twenty four (24) letters from you and will answer when he receives the twenty fith (25th) -

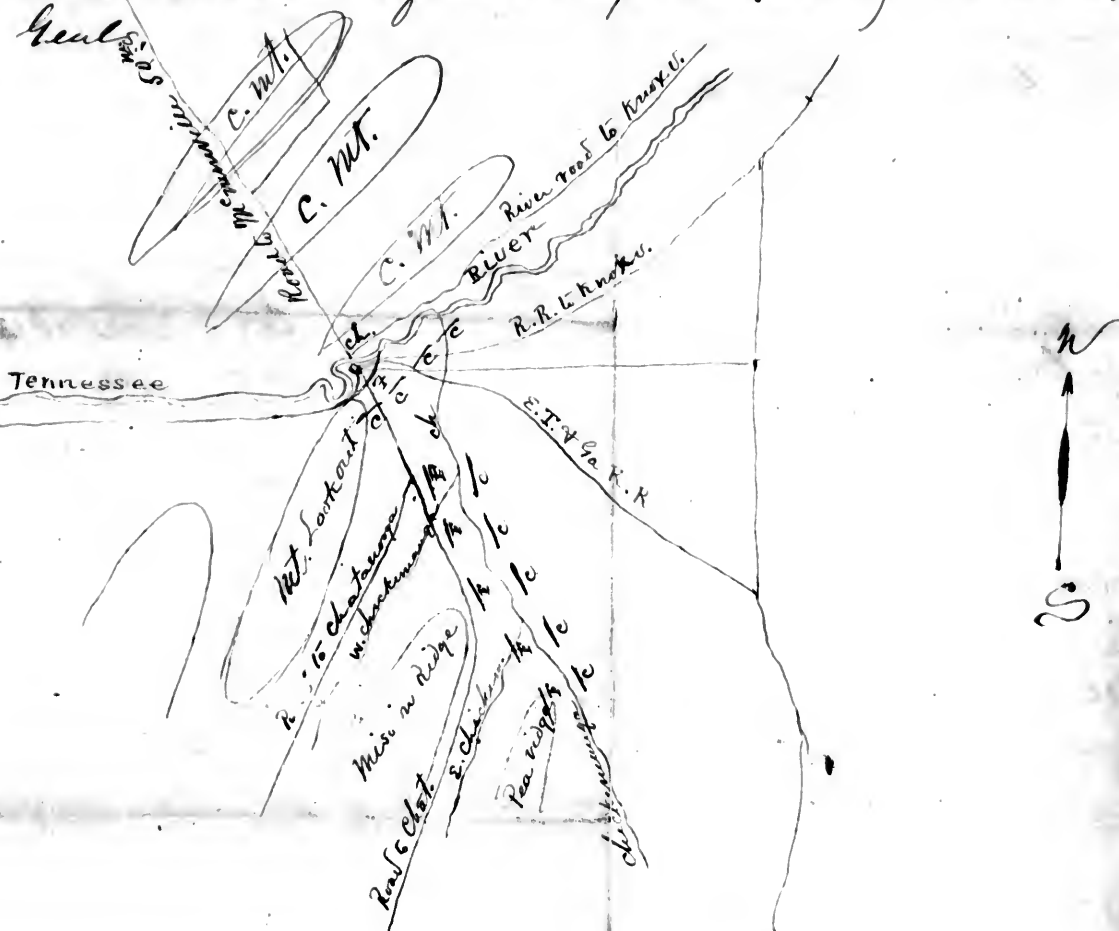
He think you should study hard, especially the subjects I wrote you of in a past letter.

He knows the gentleman who has the principal examining to do, and thinks if you will study your position after the war will be one of honor and much profit.

I am trying to get you ordered to the James river Squadron in order that you may have a better opportunity for study. It will be gratifying to you to know that I stand very highly in the estimation of my Commander and my colleagues, I am also pleased with the report I get from you. When you shall stand your examination I hope to have greater reasons to be proud of you. Remember that you have a chance now to recover the time lost in youth. -

We are all pleased with the situation of affairs in the West and that you may know the status of affairs there I will give

an outline of the positions of the respective



C, Confederate

F, Federal

On the days of the battle Longstreet forced the enemy back and penetrated to the junction of the two roads to Chat. Cutting off Rosecrank's retreat ^{some}. On the left the enemy were forced over "Pea Ridge" and Mission Ridge to W. Chickamauga, but during the night Rosecrank retreated through the country to Chat. leaving his wounded artillery and many prisoners in our hands. Now he is pent up in Chat. with only that dirt road over the Cumberland Mts. from which to get his supplies, our artillery commanding every road besides. Now I predict that he will make a disastrous retreat across the Mts. but will not be captured.

Yours &c

Your aff. brother

Gerritt

(George Meridyth Peek)

32

2 pg ink

Richmond, VA.

Oct 3, 1863

My Dear Charly.

Your letter has been received some days since and I have been so busy as to make me postpone its answer til now. I am writing from the table in the basement at home - All is well except Pa who has been sick abed for some days but is much better this evening and we hope will be out in a day or two - Lizzie and Cousin Mary Ann are here enjoying them selves-. Cousin James was with us last night and tells me to write "that he has received twenty four (24) letters from you and will answer when he receives the twenty fith (25th)-

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We are pleased with the situation of affairs in the west and that you may know the state of affairs there I will give an outline of the position of the respected Genl.

((There is an Ink drawn map by George Peek of Pea Ridge Mission Ridge & road to Chatt. Tn.))

C. Confrederate.

F. Federals

On the days of the battle Longstreet forced the enemy back and penetrated to the junction of the two roads to Chat. Cutting off Rosecrants retreat. on the left the enemy were forced over "Pea Ridge" and Mission Ridge to. W. Chickomauga, but during the night Rosecrants - retreated through the country to Chat. leaving his wounded artillery and many prisoners in our hands. Now he is just upon Chat. with only that dirt road over the Cumberland Mts. from which to get his supplies, our artillery commanding every road besides. Now I predict that he will make a desasterous retreat across the Mts. but will not be captured.

I am &c-

Your Aff brother.

Georgie

Gloaming Glen
Dec 8th 1863

My Dear Dick:

It seems almost a century since I saw you, and you have not even written one word to notify me where you were, and what you were doing. I wrote you when Pa returned but have had no opportunity since. Since I wrote tremendous have been the events that have roused the West and still greater are coming. I, as I wrote you, accepted a position as Adj't of a Regmt Y.A. Jones was raising. But he eventually gave out the idea, and I was appointed by the Col. Bandy this department of conscripts as Provost-Marshal of this place. I held that position until a Yankee Army under Gen Sherman made their advent to this place when I "lumbered" and thus ended my career as P.M. I remained then without any occupation and not liking an inactive life, joined Capt Ross' Co. Johnston Regmt. and have been with it ever since. I crossed over to this side of the river two or three times while the Yankee Army was passing. I was not captured however as some others. Jack Foster who had risen to the dignity of Lt is now in action Ill or somewhere else.

on account of being too daring and going to sleep
with Grouse & Jack Robinson in a house situated
miles from here. I have a very good time - hear
from home every day get home about once
a week. The service is hard. Have to sleep
in the air train and march frequently at
night. Yet its decidedly better than be
Last week the Yanks made a raid into town
and captured Maj Bertwell, Jus. Gen. of Regt
Staff - who has been paroled - St John Andrews of
Roady Staff - Acting Foster & several others
Night before last they captured John Healey
& Billie Pettus. So you see the Florence boys
are dwindling down. But I am going to
give them a good race if I can before they
get me. Wash is with me and we are as
thick as ever. They say he is to marry Ida
H. soon. But it is not so for the present. Also
they say Miss Lacie H. is to be married.
Another false rumor. I wrote you all about
the reports about the Queen's defod. They are
still current and it is currently reported
she is to be married, but not immediately
She is looking very well and always speaks

affectionately of you. I have been un-
able to discover anything more. But I ex-
pect you have let some other 'Queen' supplant her
on this. There is nothing of interest occurring
here. The town floods on in an even way
first with Yanks and then Confeds. I am
now on a leave for 24 hrs and our regiment
is camped 10 miles below. We are going up into
town in a day or so to rout a nest of Tories
and expect to have an exciting time
of it. Your Sloss is going on to R. soon
He will be there some time this month and I
want you to go and see him. He has promised
to purchase me a nice pipe and for fear I
should forget it I will get you to assist him
in selecting it. We have a new bat in the
family now and Ma of course thinks it is the
beauty. She says you look very natural sitting
on the parlor mantle & she don't intend to let
the Yanks get it. See Tucker & tell him to write
to me. I would write but haven't time. Nothing new
to send and will a great long letter by Rowdon
Present my kindest regards to your people.
All and love
Yr aff friend
Ed. G. O'Neal

29
750
1450
29
43.50

83
43.50
36.50

(letter to George Peek from
Ed A. O'Neal)

3 pp ink

Florence Ala.
Dec 8th 1863

My dear Peek :

It seems almost a century since I saw you, and you have not even written one word to notify me where you were, and what you were doing. I wrote you when Pa returned but have had no opportunity since. Since I wrote tremendous have been the bouts that have roused the West and still greater are coming. I, as I wrote you accepted a position as Adj. of a Regmt. Y.A. Jones was raising. But he eventually gave out the idea and I was appointed by the Col Couwdy. This department of concripts as Provost Marshall of this place. I held that position until a Yankee army under Genl Sherman made their advance to this place where I "lieberd" and then ended my career a P.M. I remain there without any occupation and not lacking an inactive life, joined Capt Sloss' Co. Johnson Regmt. and have been with it ever since, I crossed over to this side of the river two or three times while the Yankee army was passing. I was not captured however as some others. Jack Foster who had risen to the dignity of Lt. is now in Alton Ill or somewhere else on account of being too daring and going to sleep with Frank F. & Jack Richman in a house seventeen miles from here. I have a very good time - here from home everyday & get here about once a week. The service is hard. Never to sleep in the air & rain and march frequently at night. Yet its decidedly better than Va.

Last week the yanks made araid into town and captured Maj Bertwell Ins - Gen of Braggs Staff - who has been paroled - Lt. Jim Andrews of Roddy's Staff - Antony Foster & several others night before last they captured John Neakly & Billie Pettus. So you see the Florence boys are dwindling down. But I am going to give them a good race if I can before they get me. Wash is with me and we are as thick as ever. They say he is to marry Ida Ne- soon. But it is not so for the present. Also they say Miss Sallie N - is to be married. Another false rumour. I wrote you all about the reports about the Queen &c before. They are still current and it is currently reported she is to be married, but not immediately. She is looking very well and always speaks affectionally of you. I have been unable to discover anything more. But I expect you have let some other Queen supplant her ere this. There is nothing of interest occurring here. The towm plods on in an ever way first with Yanks and then Confeds. I am here on leave for six hrs and our Regmt is camped 10 miles below. More going up into town in a day or so to rout a nest of Youis and expect to have an exciting time of it. Lou Sloss is going out to R - soon. He will be there some time this month and I want you to go and see him. He has promised to purchase me a nice pipe and for fear he should forget it I will get you to assist him in selecting it. We have a new brat in the family now and Ma of course thinks it is the beauty. She says you look very natural sitting on the parlor mantle & she dont intend to let the Yanks get it. See Tucker & tell him to write to me. I would write but havent time, Nothing new, Be sure and write a great long letter by Loui Sloss. Pre- sent my kindest regards to your people. All send love

Yr aff friend

Ed. A. O'Neal, Jr

Sissie

You say Cousin ^{Wm} Hope is wondering from
Home to Home. Please tell him that we have
better come down here and live with me. That I
will get his farm which is now occupied by
Mr. Repley for him and we will go there to live
and farm jointly which will be better for us both
or else if he will not come send me a deed
for it and I will take charge of it and see
to its being taken care of. The Trustees take
charge of all property left by our people
except there be some one here who have deeds of
trust upon it and then the holder of the trust
keeps it. ~~Should~~ ^{Should} either come or send
me a deed his farm will be taken care of other
wise the Trustees will take it they are now
taking all the wood of and there is but little
left on it and all the timber is cut from

The farms joining on all sides and unless
something is done it will not be worth much

Mary Esweeney alias Mary Thomas sends
her love to you all and desires that you
should let her know how the children are
to be. I am now doing pretty well living
at Sampsons farm have the best looking corn
in the County very good potatoes &c &c

Good bye your
Uncle George

(George Meridyth Peek)

Clc 1863]

1/2 pg ink

(WAR RELATED LETTER. WRITTEN TO ONE OF THE CHILDREN IN PEEK FAMILY, FROM
UNCLE GEORGIE. ~~GEORGE PEEK BELIEVED TO BE IN HAMPTON, VA~~)

Sissie

You say cousin Wm. Hope is wandering from house to house please tell him that he had better come down here and live with me. That I will get his farm which is now occupied by Mr. Ripley for him and we will go there to live and farm jointly which will be better for us both or else if he will not come send me a deed for it and I will take charge of it. and see to its being taken care of. The Yankees take charge of all property left by our people except there be some one here who have deeds of trust upon it and then the holder of the trust keeps it, and if Wm will either come or send me a deed his farm will be taken care of, other were, the Yankees will take it they are now taking all the wood of and there is little fence on it and all the timber is cut from the farms joining on all sides and unless something is done now it will not be worth much.

Mary Swung Alias Mary Thomas sends her love to you all - and desires that you should let her know how her children are - ect ect. I am now doing pretty well living, at Simpson's farm have the best looking corn in the county very good. potatoes.

Good bye your
uncle George.

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1864

Folder 6 of 9

Dear Annie
 I cannot
 tell her how
 my letter appeared
 Go ahead
 writing a
 line to
 my land
 small
 We
 had share
 not for
 you - I
 have
 never

Greensboro, Jan 17th 1864

When your welcome letter reached me some two or three weeks since, I was in bed with one of my old neuralgic headaches, which lingered some days and then left inflammation in my eyes which was very annoying and painful; that combined with the trouble and confusion of moving to our new home left me very little time to write.

And I have felt so depressed and low spirited for some weeks that I scarcely felt like writing for I feel sadder ^{at} Christmas than any other season of the year, it was only a day or two before I received your letter that it remarked to the Hope I would like to blot that season from the calendar, and my memory too. Each year I have hoped would be the last I should have to spend among strangers, and so far away from home, but I have given up almost all hope of the war ending in my lifetime, and if I can only get enough for his all to eat I shall be thankful.

I think I have great cause to be thankful for the many blessings I have enjoyed since I left home, while so many of our acquaintances have ^{suffered} in mind, body and estate, I have been very comfortably fixed all the time and had high good substantial food until about two months before we commenced housekeeping, and we came ~~as~~ ^{near} suffering for something that we could eat ~~as~~ ^{than} hope

ever to be again, for several days together we would have
nothing sit before us but what was called bread but
it was nothing but flour and water mixed up and the
not half baked it was so tough you might pull half an
hour and it would not break, that bread and a little
fried middling and sometimes one chicken for half doz
en people, and we paying high board. I dont know
what we would have done but for being able to get
eggs and cooking them in our rooms.

All this time we are very comfortably housekeeping,
Mr Bismarck and Mr Hope have rented a house with
about ten acres of land and we have a cow and a great
at many chickens and expect to raise large quantities
of vegetables. We have made very warm friends
too of the family with whom we boarded the greater
part of last year, Mr and Mrs Anderson, they have helped
us in a great many ways such as giving bed clothes and
flannel and woollen homespun for Mr Hope who is now
on a visit to them about twenty five miles from this
place, they are very much attached to all of us, but
especially to Mr Hope, seem to feel towards him as if
he was a near relation and want always to be doing
something for him. Your family has been fortunate
in being able to remain in Richmond all this time
it is horrible this moving about so often; I should
have liked to remained in Nassau town during the war
I liked the place, and the people were more like Virginians

and there was such a fine physician there too,
and he was very kind to us. I like this place tolerably
well the inhabitants have been very polite and some
of them quite kind to us, but I think there is a very
decided Union sentiment about here and the North
Carolinians too love money and to make money, the lig
hest people at making a bargain I ever met. I am
prouder every day to live that I am a Virginian, no people
is in the world like them.

The children have just come in from playing out
nearly all day and are keeping up such a jabber
ing that I expect to have to put this up, they are
very well now and Jennie very much grown, Stannie
is very fat and robust has always been much
more healthy than Jennie, they are dressed in real
country clothes and dresses like the little negroes
at home, dark homespun aprons, yellow
cotton drawers and homespun stockings and
I am very thankful to have such comfortable
clothing for them, and most of it given them
by Mrs Anderson. Jennie is a great talker and
asks questions that would puzzle King Solomon. Stannie
is fat and rosy very much like one of your Uncle
George's young children and cares for nothing in
the world except something to eat and her
Mamma. I cant send Mollie my congratulations
on the birth of her third daughter for I re

ally feel sorry for her. and think ^{to a pretty} she
will be so patient that they are not boys.
Tell your Ma I am not patient enough to endanger
my life for my country so far away from her and
Uncle Jipie and there is no chance of her having
any little cousin James Barron as long as the war
lasts. My health has been very good since I
came to this place until the very cold weather
gave me neuralgia. Capt. Hies will bring his
family to Greensboro the first of next month
to board about a mile and from town, he
is now on a visit to Mr Anderson with Mr
Hope and Chismar, he has been staying with us
several days since his return from Washington.
I suppose you have heard of the marriage of your
cousin John Hope, they passed through this place
on their bridal tour, I called on them, she
has a very bad mask on her face - something like
Miss Betty Pentep but not quite so bad, is quite plea-
sant and is worth about fifteen thousand dollars.
Dear Jipie tell your Ma she need have no fears
about your cousin James forgetting her, she is too int-
imately associated with the memory of
of the kindness and affection she has always shown
us, not to be remembered with pleasure and grati-
tude. I very seldom hear from any of my friends on
the Peninsula, don't believe a word of Mr. Dasher and
Dolly Lively being married she is a girl of too much
sense and taste for that. Give my love to all your
family, including Mr. Johnson's and Jipie's
write again soon to your ever affectionate

(letter written to Sissy

4 pg ink

Greensboro Jan 17th 1864

My dear Sissie

When your welcome letter reached me some two or three weeks since , I was in bed with my old neuralgie headaches , which lingeres some days and then left inflamation in my eyes which was very annoying and painful , that combined with the trouble and confusion of moving to our new home left me little time to write .

And I have felt depressed and low spirited for some weeks that I scarcely felt like sorting for I feel sadder at Christmas than any other season of the year, it was only a day or two before I received your letter that I remarked to Mr Hope I would like to blot that season from the calander, and my memory too. Each year I have hoped would be the last I should have to spend among strangers , and so far away from home , but I have given up almost all hope of the war ending in my lifetime, and if I can only get enough for us all to eat I shall be Thankful.

I think I have great cause to be thankful for the many blessings I have enjoyed since I left home , while so many of our acquaintances have suffered in mind, body and estate, I have been very comfoatably fixed all the time and enough good substantial food until about two months before we commenced housekeeping and we came near suffering for something that we could eat than I hope ever to be again, for several days together we would have nothing set before us but what was called bread but it was nothing but flour and water mixed up and then not half baked it was so tough you might pull half an hour and it would not break, that bread and a little fried middling and sometimes one chicken, for a half dozen people, and we paying high board. I dont know what we would have done but for being able to get eggs and cooking them in our rooms.

At this time we are very comfortable, housekeeping, Mr Chisman and Mr Hope have rented a house with about ten acres of land and we have a cow and a great many chickens and expect to raise a large quantity of vegetables. We have made warm friends too of the family with whom we boarded, the greater part of last year. Mr & Mrs Anderson, they have helped us in a great many ways such as giving bed cloths and flannel and wollen homespun for Mr Hope who is now on a visit to them about twenty five miles from this place, they are very much attached to all of us, but especially to Mr Hope, seem to feel towards him as if he was a near relation and want always to be doing something for him. Your family has been fortunate in being able to remain in Richmond all the time, it is horrible this moving about so often ; I should have liked to remain in Warrenton during the war I liked the place, and the people were more liked Virginians and there was such a fine physician there too, and he was very kind to us. I like this place tolerably well the inhabitants have been very polite and some of them quite kind to us, but I think there is a very decided Union Sentiment about here and the North Carolinians too lure money and to make money, the biggest people at making a bargain I ever met. I am prouder every day I live that I am a Virginian, no people in the world like them.

The children have just come in from playing out nearly all day, and are keeping up such a jabbering that I expect to have to put this up, they are very

well now and Jennie very much grown, Nannie is very fat and robust has always been much more healthier than Jennie, they are dressed in real country plainest dresses like the little negroes used to wear at home, dark homespun aprons, yet long cotton drawers and home knit stockings and I am very thankful th have such comfortable clothing for them, and most of it given them by Mrs Anderson. Jennie is a great talker and asks questions that would puzzle King Solomon. Nannie is fat and very much like, one of your Uncle Georges young children and cares for nothing in the world except something to eat and her Mamma. I cant send Mollie my congratulations on the birth of her third daughter for I really feel sorry for her and think its a pittty if she will be so patriotic that they are not boys.

Tell your Ma I am not patriotic enough to endanger my life for my country so far away from her and Uncle Jesse and there is no chance of her having any little Cousin James Barrin as long as the war last. My health has been very good since I came to this place until the very cold weather of (?) neualgia. Capt. (?) will bring his family to Greensboro the first of next month to board about a mile and a half from town, he is now on a visit to Mr Andersons with Mr Hope and Chisman, he has been staying with us several days since his return from Warrenton.

I suppose you have heard of the marriage of your Cousin John Hope they passed through this place on their bridal tour I called to see them she has a very bad mark on her Jaw something like Miss Betsy Tentrep but not quite as bad, she is quite pleasant and is worth about fifteen Thousand dollars.

Dear Sissie tell your Ma she need have no fears about your Cousin James forgetting her, she is too intimately appreciative (the meaning of) with her dear mother, to say nothing of the kindness and affection she has always shown us, not to be remembered with pleasure and gratitude. I very seldom hear from any of my friends on the Peninsular, dont believe a word of Mrs Burehen and Tally Lively being married she is a girl of too much sence and taste for that. Give my love to all your family, including brother Johnny and Jesse.

write again soon to your ever
affectionally

(NOTE WRITTEN ACROSS FIRST PAGE)

Dear Cousin Jannette

I cannot let this love letter afterward go without writing a line to send my love to you all & tell you that I have not forgotten you - I never shall.

James

Lus. Calver. June 12 1864

Dr Sir;

My son John has been a cadet at the Ala. Mil. University for 18 months, and now desires to join the Naval School at Richmond.

Please write me at West Point, Miss what steps he will have to take to get a position in that School.

He is 16 years old today, well grown, of good Physical development. good morals, but rather full of fun, and I fear, too indigent into papers in his Academical Studies.

He would like to get out on the Ocean, on one of our National Vessels, but I presume he is too young for such duties.

I have written to the Hon. R. H. Walker Senator from this State to apply for a place for him.

If you have any printed Circulars or Catalogues I will be obliged to you for a copy.

When will the next Term commence?

I am very respectfully
your obt. servt.

Wm S Kennedy
Capt. U.S.

Prof G M Peck
Richmond
Va

Sept 12th ^{the} ^{1st} ^{of} ^{the} ^{year} ¹⁸
18 - nck -

(Letter written to Georage M. Peek, while on the "Patrick Henry" from
Capt. S. Kennedy, L.A.C.S.)

1 pg encl

Tuscalousa Jan 12 - 1864

Dear Sir :

My son John has been a cadet at the Ala. Mil. University for 18 months ; and now desires to join the Naval School at Richmond.

Please write me at West Point, Miss. what steps he will have to take to get a position in that school. He is 16 years old today, well grown, of good physical development - good morals, but rather full of fun and I fear, too indiferent acts perfect in his accademical studies -

He would like to get out on the Ocean on one of our national ves-els, but I presume he is too young for such duties.

I have written to the Hon R. W. Walker Senator from this state to apply for a place for him.

If you have any printed circulars or catalogues I will be obliged to you for a copy -

When will the next term commence ?

I am very respectfully
Your Obt Sal.

Jno S' Kennedy
Capt L A C S -

Prof G.M. Peek
Richmond
Va

Camp 3rd Regt near Vencennes

Sunday July 30th 1864

My dear Darling

I will expect to see a
cheese to Richmond in the morning & I
will write you a short note, & am
sorry, Matt, we are having a very
hot time indeed. We have to keep
close under our blankets & use
the same to so oppressively hot. We
have some signs of rain this evening
Everything remains quiet in our front
if we are permitted to stay in
these lines we will have quite
an easy time for I don't think
that the Enemy will attack us
in an immediate front. We had
an execution to see. A man on
yesterday, a soldier was shot
for desertion, have you heard
from Charlie recently till George
I would if he would come down
to see me the steamer comes with

In a short distance of the time,
Bill is well, my eye is all
has no ink in your South
yet. Edie
I have seen the note I have
written to her. Page

You have more vegetables than you
know what to do with I will
be very much obliged if you
will send me a few - they
Certainly will be very acceptable
We cannot get anything of the
kind now in town but what we
can buy from the Monks Store, which
are enormously high at a piece for
ones about the size of walnuts
and even, the price in proportion is
very scarce at that. Bill & myself
mess together and we make a little
go a long way.

affet: Edie

(Eddie Peek)

#3

2 pg pencil

Camp 32nd Reg Near Vencelle House.
Sunday July 30th 1861 [1864]

My Own Darling Sis.

Bill expects to send chelse to Richmond in the morning. So I will write- you a short note. I am very well. We are having a very hot time indeed. We have to keep close under our Blanket Because - the sun is so oppres^{ively} hot. We hade some signs of rain. This evening everything remains quiet on our front, if we are permitted to stay on these lines we will have quite a easy, time for I dont think that the Enemy will attack our immeanent front. We had an Execution in our Brigade on yesterday a Soldier was shot for desertion, have you heard from Charlie recently, tell Georgie I would if he would come down to see me the steamer comes with in a short distance of the line, Bill is well. My love to all - has Bro Johnnie gone south yet.

Bro Eddie

Show Pigeon the note I have written to her.

If you have more vegetables than you know what to do with I will be very much obliged if you will send me a few - they Certanily Will be very acceptable. We cannot get any thing of the sort received here but what we can buy from the hucksters, which are enormously high & A peice of ounion about the size of walnut - and even the eyes in potatos are very scarce at that, Bill & myself mess together and we make a little go a long way.

Affet. Eddie

Dear Sir -

You will oblige me by collecting such clothing and other valuables belonging to Miss Jones as you may find on board ship and having them left at Bro. Dool-ey's store in Richmond. His mother writes me that he probably had "some silver" - (I suppose she meant some small articles of plate) - If such can be found - be pleased to have it put up in the same package with the clothing & properly labelled - For your kindness you have my thanks -

Very Truly Yours.

Thos. P. McCandlish

Prof. G. M. Peck.

Sept 14 '64.

Prof. G. N. Parks.
St. Patrick Henry.

(letter to Prof. G. M. Peek on board Patrick Henry
from Tho. P. McCandlish)

1 pg pencil

Dear Sir -

You will oblige me by collecting such clothing and other valuable belonging to Mid - Jones as you may find on board Ship and having them left at Jno Dooley's Store in Richmond. His mother writes me that he probably had " some silver " (I suppose she meant some small articles of plate) . If such can be found - be pleased to have it put up in the same package with the clothing & properly labelled - For your kindness you have my thanks -

Very truly yours -
Tho. P. McCandlish

Prof G. M. Peek -

Sepr 14 ' 64

London Mon
Dec 18th 1854

Dear Ma

Georgie and Jesse
went on the ship Saturday and
have not yet returned, I suppose
the rain prevented. I am particular-
ly anxious to see him, for I am
confident he will get an invitation
to the wedding (to the cutting part!)
from a remark Willie Cansey
made to me last night. He asked
me if Georgie was at home. I told
him he was and had holidays.
He said he wanted to go out
Monday to see him. Tell Georgie
to stay at home all day for good
news' sake. Some of the groomsmen
will not be able to get here and
he will probably wait. Tell Brother
Johnny his invitation is not to the
house. Neither did Mr Petherbridge
get me to the house, and you
never saw such a disappointment
Aunt Mollie and I have both

received ours and are anticip-
-pating a happy time at the
table! Georgie's straps are
here and are beautiful. He
must certainly support them
Tuesday night.

Aunt Mollie returns sincere
thanks for the meat.

You ought to have sent the
glass and comb by Solomon
Send it in tomorrow.

Love to all -

affectionately

Sissie

I wrote for the glass and comb
by Georgie and I forgot he
had not been home -

The looking glass out of the
little room and my pin
with comb in my glass

drawer - Don't be uneasy

about Georgie we are

expecting him every minute.

and he may stay all night
if it rains -

Aunt Mollie says you
must come in tomorrow
or next day -

Mrs. Janet Peck

Near Winder Hope

By Servant boy Solomon

(Maria S. Peek) (Sis)
3

2 1/3 pg pencil

Sunday morn
Dec 18., 1864

Dear Ma

Georgie and Jesse went on the ship Saturday and have not yet returned. I suppose the rain prevented. I am particularly anxious to see him for I am confident he will get an invitation to the wedding (to the eating part) from a remark Willie Causey made to me last night. He asked me if Georgie was at home. I told him he was and had holidays. He said he wanted to go out Monday to see him. Tell Georgie to stay at home all day for goodness sake. Some of groomsmen will not be able to get here and he will probably wait. Tell Brother Johnny his invitation is not to the house. Neither did Mr Petherbridge get one to the house, and you never saw such a disappointment. Aunt Mollie and I have both received ours and are anticipating a happy time at the table ! Georgies straps are here and are beautiful. He must certainly support them Tuesday night.

Aunt Mollie returns sincere thanks for the meat.

You ought to have sent the glass and come by Solomon send it in tomorrow.

Love to all -

Affectionately
Sissie

I wrote for the glass and comb by Georgie and I forgot he had not been home -

The looking glass out of the little room and my fine tooth comb in my glass drawer - dont be uneasy about Georgie we are expecting him any minute and he may stay all night if it rains.

Aunt Mollie says you must come in tomorrow or next day -

Steamer P. Henry,
Tuesday night,

Dear Sir,

As you are the adjutant genl. of the household like Genl. S. Cooper is of the Confederate States Army, it is right and proper that I should address the Department through you.

Here I hope to start from here on next Friday evening at 3 o'clock P.M. in the C. Gunboat "Raleigh", and if it will be perfectly convenient I would like for some one to take my valise. In case, however, it should be inconvenient I will endeavor to leave it in charge of Nelson, or nothing daunted, as when I returned from the battle field, it may go along with me.

The organization of the school has not progressed any since I wrote to Daniel. No more mention has been made of the Secretary, but I shall endeavor to bring it up again by mentioning the neglect of the duties he should attend to and the want of things he should supply. I hear that Com^{dr} Barron has returned to the city - if Cousin James were only here now Daniel would succeed immediately.

The "Next Point" came down to day on a grand excursion trip; but as the frolic was given by a dancing-school master, and the principal feature of the trip was to display to the public the great perfection to which that art has arrived, I did not expect to find you one of the party. The gentle manner which gentlemen have of placing their arms about the waists of smiling not flushing ladies, and the innocent way they have of enclosing their tiny white hands within their own ill-comports with that high and dignified manners which I consider the perfection of parlor education - what we used to enjoy in our happy circle in dear old Hampton and what I enjoyed in the presence of my

Anna
Yours aff. bro.
George.

(George Meridyth Peek)

30A

2 pg link

Stemer P. Henry
Fuesday night,

Dear Sis,

As you are the adjutant Genl. of the house hold like Genl S Cooper is of the Confederate States Army., it is right and proper that I should address the Department- through you.

Well I hope to start from here on next Friday evening at 3 O'clock P.M. in the gunboat "Raleigh," and if it will be perfectly convenient I would like for some one to take my valise; In case, however, it should be inconvenient I will endeavor to leave it in charge of Wilson, or nothing douted, as when I returned from the battlefield, it may go along with me.

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You aff. bro.

Georgie.

Richmond Dec. 17th

Monday Morning

My dear Ma

We received Pa's letter yesterday saying that he could not come up now -

I suppose you have seen by the papers that there is now only one boat on the James River line and if Bro Eddie is not, certain that there is a boat up on next Monday I am afraid he will not get here until Xmas night. As it now stands there is a boat up only on every Monday Wednesday & Friday You had better send this letter over to him by Uncle Ned so that he may know it in time

to make arrangements to get
up here certainly by Christmas Eve
we must certainly bring cousin
Pussy up with him

Bro Johnny wrote to Pa yesterday
and I suppose told him how
the children were. Tommy
seems to be quite poorly. The
others are getting along right
well. I am now enjoying the
sweet strains of Eliza's strong
melodious voice. I am afraid
grandpa has ruined her
beyond recovery.

I suppose aunt Mollie received
my letter. My love to her and
all the family. We have jolly
neighbors on each side of us
the other night on one side

There was a wedding and
on the other side a man
was giving his wife a
terrible beating. We staid
out in the porch listening
at the brawl for a long
time, such as we never
heard before.

Affectionately
Sis

I wish Charlie would
accept the invitation to
spend the Xmas with us
up here.

Monday Night

I had written this letter when Daniel surprised us with a visit on Monday and did not mail it as it will go to you as soon by him as by mail.

Aunt Pigeon commenced tonight on her mince-meat, sending various to me - getting along tolerably well.

I enclosed a letter Geo sent me, which was received tonight.

Affectionately

Mitt Romney at Newport news

His

Thursday afternoon, Had not bro Eddie better take the steamer from Norfolk Sunday night and get here Monday morning.

(Maria S. Peek)(Sis)
4

[ca (86 4)]

4 pg ink

Richmond Dec 17th
Monday morning

My dear Ma

We received Pa'a letter yesterday saying that he could not come up now -

I suppose you have seen by the papers that there is now only one boat on the Jame River line and if too Eddie is not certain that there is a boat up on next Monday, I am afraid he will not get here until X mas night. As it now stands there is a boat up only on every Monday, Wednesday & Friday. You had better send this letter over to him by uncle Ned. so, that he may know it in time to make arraignments to get up here certainly by Christmas Eve. He must certinely bring cousin Pussy up with him.

Bro. Johnny wrote to Pa yesterday and I suppose told him how the children were. Tommy seems to be quite poorly. The others are getting along right well. I am now enjoying the sweet strain of Eliza's strong melodious voice. I am afraid grandpa has ruined her beyond recovery.

I suppose Aunt Mollie received my letter, my love to her and all the family. We have Jolly neighbors on each side of us. The other night on one side there was a weeding and on the other side a man was giving his wife a terrible beating. We stand out on the porch listening at the brawl for a long time, such as we never heard before.

Affectionally.
Sis.

I wish Charlie would accept the invitation to spend the X mas with us up here.

(ON REVERSE - PAGE 4)

Monday Night

I had written this letter when Danial surprised us with a visit on Monday. and did not mail is as it will reach you as soon by him as by mail.

Aunt Pigeon commenced tonight on her mince meat, seeding raisinsec.

All getting along tolerable will In close a letter Geo sent me, which was received tonight.

Affectionally
Sis

Meet Tommy at Newportnews Thursday afternoon, Had not bro Eddie better take the steamer from Norfolk Sunday night - and be here Monday morning

Ca 1864]

Richmond Va
Friday Morning

My dear Ma & Pa

Daniel expects to leave this morning about ten o'clock on the train and will remain in Norfolk til Saturday morning. We got here pretty early Monday ~~evening~~, Bro Johnny was at home with headache they were all down in the garden and came running up as soon as they saw the carriage, and we were met with a hearty welcome they looked for us Vidley aunt Pejiver had her cleaning done, chickens

hams &c saved. We will
move in town next week
expect to move the carpets
and things we do not need
out here before then, so that
we will be out here only
one more Sunday.

Sybil has been sick ever
since she has been home
with cold and fever. Tommy
had a chill day before

yesterday and was quite
sick, he has stop school
again, but will not
come down with Daniel

My love to aunt Mollie
and cousin Puss, I
wish they were up here
to enjoy the nice things
we are looking for cousin

Puss & Mas. They say
I shall not go home then
but must stay all the
winter. How is Prophet
I hope you are taking
good care of him and
will not find him
much trouble.

Bro Johnny got a letter
from Georgie two nights
ago. He was very well
Take care of all letters
for me, and Daniel
will forward them.

Make sure write,
very affectionately
Fissie

I am sorry I did not have a
bag of those your potatoes
for aunt Pigeon, she seems
anxious to get some.

Bro Johnson wants some
clay barks, and I think
a box of nuts and potatoes
will be very acceptable
she will send your tin
bucket by Mr Edolie.
Aunt Pigeon sends her
love to all.

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1865-1866

Folder 7 of 9

Greensborough N.C. July 22nd 65

Dear Jack

Yours of the 17th came to hand yesterday. The Express agt. here says that it is well known at the Postoffice office that there are no packages at this office which have been here over a week, everything having been shipped about a week ago. He remembers nothing about your package, but thinks it may be in Danville.

Hope & myself have been doing all in our power to find a place for you. but so far have been unsuccessful. Hope has been to look at a place 1 mile from town which has been advertised for sale. He thinks this place will not suit you. as the buildings on the place are very inferior.

I had a conversation with a gentleman to day who has a place for sale of the following description.

6 miles from Greensborough 2 miles from a depot on the Piedmont R.R. 200 acres, 1/2 cleared, remainder well timbered. Dwelling, tolerably good, 8 rooms 3 fire places, some of the rooms quite small, a kitchen stable crib & smoke house, some repairs needed to dwelling, kitchen & stable. Enclosure not good, Land not thin water plentiful. I got this description from the owner of the place, whom I know, and I believe him to be a reliable man, his price is \$15,000 - Let me know immediately whether or not, from the description, you

Think this place will suit you. I have not seen it
nor can I, as I am so constantly employed as to be
unable to go anywhere. I have been up town but once
since I have been here.

I shall make further
enquiry with the hope of finding a place that
will suit you.

Yours Truly

Marion Collett.

P.S. I fixed your business with Lettis man I hope
all right

Camden Aug 3^d 1806

Dear Brother,

Your letter of the 16th Dec^r is just received. I must acknowledge to very great neglect in not writing to you or any of the family at Hampton for a long time. I have been postponing from day to day so long that it has really become a habit to neglect that duty. The principle reason however is that I have been a good deal bothered and annoyed in my business for some time past which has kept me out of sorts.

During the Summer I had made up my mind to move back to Little Rock, and take possession of the old Rapley homestead (when I was married)

I had contracted to sell my house and lot here for 5000 and made all my arrangements to move back to the Rock about the 1st Dec. last. but as I was about to make final steps for the move, the gentleman to whom I had sold, refused to comply with the contract on the ground that I did not have a clear title to the place. The party I purchased it from during the war sold under the provisions of a will which has lately become involved in a law suit. So I cannot leave and have disappointed in my plans & arrangements. This has thrown me back a good deal, as I had given up my business here, and find that I have to make

a new start again. Business in this Country has fallen immensely below what we all expected, in consequence of a failure of the Cotton crop - our main dependence - and also in consequence of the unsettled condition of the Country politically. I am however managing to make out tolerably well. I am now basing my calculations of future success upon a Railroad enterprise which we are engaged in. I am Secretary of the Road with a Salary of \$2500 (the way however is contingent upon the Company's being able to procure a certain sum from the State which there is good ground for believing will be done. If this enterprise is successful

I will be able to make my
out of it. But really every
thing in the way of business
is so gloomy that I am not
very sanguine about any
thing. I will be contented
to make a living, and
if I can enjoy health
and have any dear ones
share to me, I am very
willing to forego all my
former bright anticipations
of wealth &c. In the present
distressed condition of the
Country one can find
very little of pleasure or
happiness outside of his
own family.

Since the death of my darling
little Charly which yet weighs
heavy upon me, my family

[30 January 1866/5]

has been shared the affliction
of any calamity. My little
Willie was very sick last
Summer with a slow fever
that lasted some two weeks.
But he weathered it by the
blessings of God, and he is
now the smartest brightest
but with all the smart mis-
chievous little fellow in town.
Both of my children Willie
& Blanche are very healthy
and hearty and I do hope
the good Lord will spare them
to me. I tremble sometimes
when I think of the possibility
of another one being taken
from me. The loss of my
other two has made an
impression upon my feeling
which no time can ever

space. It has entirely changed
the current of my life and
has an effect upon me which
I think will be for my infinite
good.

Mr Raby and all of her
children except one are at
Shrewsbury paying a visit
to Miss Raby. If things
work right they will again
live with us. Lizzie is
engaged to be married to a young
lawyer of this place, Capt. J. H.
Fuller who is now in the
Legislature.

We have just gotten
through with our Christmas
which was not a very big
one. My chief pleasure
has been in frolicing with
my children and playing
Santa Claus with ^{some of} my
neighbors. All my family are

well. Lamma wishes to be
most affectionately remembered
to you Lamma and the children.
I would embrace her but I
suppose she has gone home
by this time & Lizzie will
take her at Hampton.

For a long time past we
have been making our
plans to pay you a visit
next Summer. If I can
make the pecuniary ar-
rangement and nothing
else prevents we will
certainly be with you
before the end of the year.

Let me hear from
you often as you can
make it convenient &
believe me ever

Yours affectionately both
Thomas

Camden March 10th 1866

My dear little nephews
and niece.

I was very much gratified a few days ago by receiving your very interesting letter. I was very glad to hear from you all, for I had not heard from home before for several months. We were all very much interested in reading your letter. When I was last at home you recollect you were all such little chaps that you could not write at all. And I was surprised to see that you could write so well. My little boys you know are too small and young to write. Little Charley is only 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old and little Will is only 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ years old. But they were very glad to hear from you and by and by when they are a little older and learn to write they will write to you often. Mrs. Ropley has two little girls named Julia and Lela. Lela is the oldest and she is about as old as Tommy. She used to talk a great deal about Tommy and say that he was her sweetheart and that she was going to marry him one of these days. She is a very pretty little girl and I think if Tommy was to see her he would fall in

love with her. You know we have not had schools out here during the war like you have had in Richmond, and our children have not had the advantages of education. But Lela has been going to school ever since the war was over, and is now just beginning to make her letters. She was very sorry and ashamed too that she could not write at all while Tommy could write so well. And ever since your letter came she has been trying as hard as she could to learn to write so she could write Tommy a letter. When you write again, you must write her a letter and maybe she will answer it.

Well, my dear children Uncle Thomas is very anxious to see you and Pa + ma + Grand Pa and Grand ma and all the Hampton folks. But he dont want to go to Hampton. He that place is not like the old Hampton we used to know when we used to sail kites out in the Sinclair's old field and go a punning out there by Uncle Richards.

I got a letter from your Uncle George some time ago, and he gave me such a gloomy account of the place - telling me how much it had changed, that I felt like I never wanted to see it again. And I wish you all felt that way - for I would

like for Grand Pa and Grand ma and all the children to move away from there, and all of you come out here somewhere in the west where we could all live together in some new place. I am sure we could all be very happy there. And I am going to try and make you all do so one of these days. I dont know when I will be able to come to ~~see~~ you all; but I hope very soon. I am going to try and make it convenient to go must examine and carry Aunt Lamma and Cousin Charley and Cousin Willie + our little girl which we hope to have added to our family very soon.

I send you some pictures of ourselves which though not good I know you will be glad to receive. I send you a picture of Aunt Lamma and myself which were taken just a month before we were married. I also send you one of mine taken only a few months ago. I send you another one of Charley and one which was taken in a group with Aunt Lamma when we was down in New Orleans a few weeks ago. Aunt Lamma said her was as ugly she would cut it out. Charley's is not a good one of him, when it was taken he was very thin and pale having just come out a severe attack of measles which very

much prostrated him. The picture does
do him justice. It makes him have a very
monkishish expression, when he has a very
noble face. Willies is better. Aint he a fine
looking fellow. You must send all the
pictures down to Hampton as soon as you
can for Grand Pa & Grand Ma and the
Children to see.

You must write to me again soon
and tell Pa he must write too.

and now I must say good bye and
God bless you all.

Your affectionate

Uncle Thomas

To

Master Johnny & Richard &
Miss Maria & Peter

1
Amesport

May 10th / 1866

M^{rs} J. M. Peck,

Madam,

Your letter came to hand some time since, as we have not a resident Pastor but attended monthly from Lagerstrom, your letter was obliged to wait Father Spidiers arrival which after perusing handed over to me with the wish that I should interest myself in your behalf

In the first place, I am truly sorry to tell you your son is not buried in our grave yard, I sincerely wish he was as in that case you might rest assured his grave should be properly cared for there are but five Confederates buried there four of which are marked, I should be glad to give you a hope that the one not ^{marked}

might possibly be your son, if I did not know to the contrary, I have however brown grave yards, that contain nearly all that died here, but alas your sons name could not be found, there are very many that were marked which has been a source of regret to me, I think it a very easy matter to mark a grave but it seems soldiers become hardened and careless. I enquired of all my lady friends who visited the hospitals if they remembered of ever seeing him, but they did not he must have died during the retreat when our town was in such utter confusion we girls could not get to the hospitals, I am very well acquainted with Lt Todd but like your self entirely ignorant of his place of residence, he took his meals & staid with us at night, we living immediately opposite the Church, it was certainly a great piece of neglect in Lt Todd more especially as he promised to attend to it. perhaps were it possible for you to ascertain the Lt's address

might give me some idea where to find the grave in question. The only consolation I can give you is this, he must certainly be buried in the town grave yard, which has an elegant fence around it, where he may rest undisturbed with many of his country's comrades.

My Dear Madam I regret exceedingly my inability to give you something more definite about the hallowed spot, but in the event of your discovering the last clue by which I may be guided, do not hesitate one moment, to call upon me as I will be most happy to serve you; I should the cause in his triumph, nor would I be together less in the hour of trial
Dear Madam please accept the
sympathies of an unknown friend

Helen M Blake
Williamsport
Washington Co
Maryland

(William Hope Peek)
53

3 pg ink

Wmsport
May 10th 1866

Mrs. J. M. Peek,

Madam,

Your letter came to hand some time since, as we have not a resident Pastor but attended monthly from Hagerstown, your letter was obliged to wait Father Didiers' arrival which after handed over to me with the wish that I should interest myself in your behalf.

In the first place, I am truly sorry to tell you your son is not buried in our grave yard, I sincerely wish he was as in that case you might rest assured his grave should be properly cared for. There are but five Confederates buried there four of which are marked, I should be glad to give you a hope that the one not marked might possibly be your son, if I did not know to the contrary, I have to oversee the grave yard, that contain nearly all that died here, but alas your sons' name could not be found, there has ever been a source of regret to me, I think it a very easy matter to mark a grave but seems soldiers become hardend and careless, I enquire of all my lady friends who visited the hospitals if they remembered of ever seeing him, But they did not, he must have died during the retreat when our town was in such outter confusion we girls could not get to the hospitals, I am very well acquainted with Dr. Todd but like your self entirely ignorant of his place of residence, he took his meals & staid with us at night, we living immediately opposite the Church, it was certainly a great price of neglect in Dr. Todd more especially as he promised to attend to it. perhaps were it possible for you to ascertain the Drs. address might give me some idea where to find the grave in question. The only consolation I can give you is this, he must certainly be buried in the town grave yard, which has an elegant fence around it, where he may rest undesturbed with many of his mysterious comrades.

My Dear Madam, I regret exceedingly my inability to give you something more definate about the hallowed spot, but in the event of your discovering the last clue by which I may be guided, do not hesitate one moment, to call upon me as I will be most happy to serve you, I loved the cause in his triumph, nor would I love him less in the hour of trial.

Dear Madam please accept the sympathies of an unknown friend.

Helen M. Hake
Williamsport
Washington Co.
Maryland

Camden July 16 1866

My darling sister.

Your letter of the 25th April reached us in the midst of another great sorrow - a few hours after it was received our darling little Charley was a blessed Angel in Heaven. He died on the night of the 10th of this month after a sickness of two weeks. Oh the agony to me of that sad bereavement. The wounds inflicted by the death of my darling little Johnnie had not ceased to bleed when they were re-opened by this agonizing affliction. Oh I have been called on to suffer so much by these harassing afflictions and bereavements that my poor heart seems almost scorched to a cinder. My love for my children has been much more than the ordinary affection of fathers. I have made companions of them from the time they learned to caress me with their love and attachment. And oh they loved me as dearly as I loved them. They were both beautiful and interesting children. Little Charley was quite a favorite all over town - almost

every body knows him - and they know him
but to love him. He was so full of life & so
joyous and happy that his bright intelligent
face diffused gladness wherever he went.
But he has gone from me and my heart
is desolate. But thank ^{God}, I weep not as those
who weep without hope. I know my precious
ones are with happy angels - that they are
now when no troubles or sorrows can
ever afflict them. And that tho' they cannot
come to me, yet that I can go to them; &
that I will yet see them again even in
the flesh & live with them and they will
be forever and ever.

Though I love my precious one with a love
far exceeding expression, yet I have had
much consolation in my grief. I have become
entirely resigned to the will of God who has
given me grace to recognize his merciful
hand in this severe dispensation of his
Providence. He has blessed me far exceeding
my deserts & given me the peace of assurance
that I am a child of His & that He loves me

and cares for me & that He will finally
accept and overrule all things in his everlastingly
Kingdom. This hope comforts me immeasurably. For
I have seen so much of the troubles and afflictions of
life that my own experience has taught me
the utter vanity & worthlessness of all earthly
things. It has taught me the danger & folly of
fixing my affections upon the perishable things
of this world. I have long since found out this,
and acting upon that experience have turned my
thoughts and attention more than ever to the
subject of religion and the interests of my
immortal soul. I know that I have been growing
in grace & the best evidence I have of it, is the
quiet and resigned spirit that I trust there is to
bear up with so much fatigues & ^{new} hopefulness this
heavy affliction that would otherwise have
crushed me to the earth.

My darling sister let me take this opportunity to
inquire upon you and all my beloved kindred the
great importance of preparing yourselves for entering
upon the enjoyment of that happy existence which
the Lord of Glory has prepared for those who truly love

and serve ~~him~~ in this world. I always remember you all in my prayers and this is ever the business of my prayer that ~~though~~ I may not be permitted to see you all again in this world, yet that we may all meet in that happy world and live and love together through the endless ages of eternity - all saved - the family circle unbroken and not one lost.

It was one of my fondest wishes that I would be permitted with my little family to see you all once more. But this has not been permitted - tis of my little lambs you will never see in this world. But we may all meet and live together in a better world where there is no more parting or sickness or death or aught else to disturb the happiness and joy of that everlasting Rest.

Write to us Sis, and let us have a word of comfort and encouragement from each one of the family. Tell Pa to write to me and let me hear at least on paper once more his words of comfort and consolation. My heart always turns to him in my troubles as well as in my joys, for knowing as I do the love of a father for his child, I know

that he loves me more than any of you others can. Although I know he will deeply grieve with you on account of this affliction, yet I know it will be a great comfort and consolation to him to know that I am resigned to the will of God & that I have the sweet comforts of religion to console me in my hours of distress. It will also be a great consolation to him to know ^{that} the precepts and example of his pious life have ever exerted a most wholesome influence over me, and that to the impressions derived from his early training I have been led to seek that which of all things within human reach he would rather for me to possess.

We have now left our little boy little "Willie" a little over two years old - a beautiful and lovely child he is too, with his dark flashing eyes as black as midnight & his face open & ingenuous nature. Also a darling little blue eyed girl "Annie Planché" about two months old. God willing I am going to try very hard and bring them with them

mother to see you all next summer.

After you read this letter I want you to send it to brother Johnnie's family at Richmond. It is so painful for me to write on this subject that I would rather communicate with them through this channel than subject myself to the pain of writing a separate letter.

Sanna will write soon. We are all well and send much love to you all. Remember me kindly to Uncle Jess's family

Your aff brother

Thomas.

University of Va,

Oct. 14th. 1866.

My dear Sir,

I have not yet received a letter from home and have been here two weeks tomorrow. Well I suppose a letter must be on the way and its probable I shall receive it tomorrow.

I have received Cousin James' letter of Introduction, forwarded by brother Johnny from Rich^d.

Cousin James writes me word that he will be here on next Wednesday for the purpose of pronouncing his "See Poem", wh. you remember, he delivered in North Carolina.

I have written to you to send me a Virginia Code - and if you have not received my letter Uncle George will tell you how we can get one. I am in want

of it and would like to get it as early as possible -

Jesse has not written as he promised, but Tommy has & I have written him a nice letter in reply. When you write I would like to hear something from him, and the news in general of every body in town.

Mr. Duncan will be in Chautauville ~~off~~ next Sunday to dedicate the New Methodist Church there. What sort of a meeting did Mr. Crooks have in Hampton? How is Pusey, and how is her school getting on? Tell her that her prospect of going there every morning and returning every evening is not quite so gloomy as the task that I have before me. Mine is nine months of massive labor interspersed with Sundays

only while a refreshing Sabbath day comes to her relief every week. But I always re-member that after labor there is rest - and the harder the labor the sweeter the rest.

When did Pusey Ried go home (Hope) - Aunt Molly I suppose is relieved -

I have taken quite a long walk this evening. I went around the base of Mt. Lewis and gathered a pocket full of nice chestnuts which of course I did not eat. I wish I could send them to you. To give you an estimate of the size I will give the picture below -



We have had considerable frost here and even now I am sitting by a coal fire. Mallory Shield came over this evening to see me

he is very well and in good
spirits. I have not yet called
on Young Hope. I knew him
immediately from his picture.
He is a real blubber faced
doubled jointed 'boy, and I am
almost afraid to make his
acquaintance for fear I ~~shall~~
may be thrown with a party
who may intercept me in the
prosecution of my studies -

But I will make it convenient
Mr. Homestead of Little Rock,
called on me yesterday and
said he had seen brother John
a few weeks ago - that Mr.
Rapley had gone to Camden on
a visit - that Miss Blanche
Scott had married a Yankee
officer &c -

Give much love to all -
I hope to see you in July -
Your affectionate bro -
Ginger

Richmond Va

Oct 18. 1866.

Dr. Pa

I wish you would see Col Mallory & ask him if he can let me have the amt of the little due bill he gave me some time last summer some 60 or odd Dols. He said he thought he would be able to let me have it in the fall - I need some money now very much - the purchase of the house has more than swept me - If you could collect that & the amt for the lot it would help me very much - Willie & Janet & Tommie have

had Chilly since we
left but they have
all missed them again -
I shall not be able to
pay Mrs Sturges & Mrs Lake
& Brown the amt of their
bills when they fall
due in Nov - I don't
know how they will like
it but it will be impossible
to do it.

Affly,
J. L. Peck

University of Virginia

Oct. 28th. 1866.

My dear Sis,

I have received your last letter and the book which I mentioned before. The book was directed in the care of Mr. Wendenbecker, because I thought it would come safer that way in as much as he would have it sent to me; but I did not mean that you should direct my letters in his care, since they would come to me with as great certainty without it as I have to call at the office in person for them.

I had the pleasure of hearing Bishop Wilmer of Ala. preach in Ch. ville this morning, and I really think he has a much greater reputation as a pulpit orator than he deserves. After Church & dinner I had the pleasure of a long walk in the beautiful woods

that stick the slopes of Lewis mountain; and gathered some more of those nice brown Chestnuts of which I wrote in my last. I was accompanied in my ramble by a young Georgian whose acquaintance I have made and whose confidence I have gained. His name is Marshall H. Lane of Washington, Ga. and is exceedingly anxious for me to go to Ga. to practice law with him. I imagine that there is no one of whom he has a higher opinion than of myself.

It happens thus - Frequently I am called upon to unfold to him some of the abstruse problems of the law, which he finds a difficulty to understand; and on account of my knowledge he ~~thinks~~ I am stored with legal lore & lavishes thanks and declares that he has for me the finest

and loveliest lady in Ga. who is the sister of his sweetheart.

He has just left my room after having related to me many incidents of his life in the sunny South, all of which would doubtless amuse you, but none of which can I comprise in so short a letter.

Cousin James left here on ~~Wed~~ Thursday for Lexington, after pronouncing his poem in Ch.ville. He has been invited by the two Societies to recite it in the Public Hall of the University, and I am expecting him here in a day or two.

You will be kind enough to remember me very especially to Cousin Annie & tell her that I had many pleasant walks with Cousin James and breakfasted with him both at Dr. Davis' & Mr. Nimmo's - at the last place I had the good fortune to meet Miss

Union the daughter of the Doctor,
whose vivacity & wit quite charmed
ed me. But for all that, do not
forget to say to Miss Nannie M.....
that I am delighted to ~~think~~ hear
of her kind remembrance of my-
self & I am sure no one can regret
my absence from Hampton at this
particular time more than I do.

I must acknowledge that in
my honest endeavors to stow
my mind with the great doctrines
of the law, thoughts of her will
steal in and wedge themselves
like pebbles between rocks.

I cannot help thinking of home,
and would not if I could; nor
can I help thinking of the ladies;
for things we love are always
uppermost in our hearts, if they
do not occupy a good part of
our minds. It would be unnat-
-ural for one accustomed to the
green fields of a fertile land to
become wedded to the desert and
not delight in the refreshing shade
of the oasis; so for me to become so
far attached to the dusty volumes

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

Camden Oct. 30/85

Dear Bro:

Yours of the 5th Sep. is just rec? It has been unaccountably long in reaching me - nearly a month. And I am very much afraid that its long delay, in connection with the change in circumstances that has taken place in the mean time, will cause you a serious disappointment in the arrangements you might otherwise have made. But at the same time I indulge the hope that the change of programme which I have determined ^{on} will result much more to our advantage.

Since I last wrote I have been looking deeper into the matters & things that I wrote about than my impulsive allowed me to do at the first. I have become satisfied that it is best for me to remain in Arkansas for a year or two at least. For there are opportunities ^{here} that will enable me to make much more money, and enable me to do better for all of us in a year or two than I could do in Virginia perhaps in a life time.

I am at present practising law - with fair prospects, if I continue at it of making

ten thousand dollars a year, as soon as the ordinary business of the country is resumed. But I have no idea of confining myself to this business. I must make more money than that! and since I wrote to you, opportunities have developed themselves that have opened up one or two channels by either of which I am pretty sure of making from fifty to a hundred thousand dollars in two years. It is this that has determined me to remain here for the present & I think my determination will result to the great advantage of both of us.

I have already embarked in one of these enterprises - entered into it only a few days ago. If I am successful in the business I will clear \$20,000 this winter, which will secure me a \$100,000 or more next winter. If the first enterprise this winter is successful, I want to associate you with me next winter & I think we can make enough to retire on. The business is a real one, and will at first look to you as being a very chimerical scheme, but it is better than a gold mine or Petroleum well. It is simply gathering orange seed! I have entered into partnership with two men who know where there is an immense forest of the orange orange trees, the fruit of which this

year is unusually prolific. One man can gather from 2 to 5 bushels of seed per day, and the supply almost inexhaustible. There is a large demand for these seeds in the north west, where through that immense prairie country they are adopting the orange orange hedge for ordinary fencing. This will keep up a large & increasing demand. The seed sold in Chicago last year for \$400 - per bushel! But we have made our calculations on getting only thirty dollars per bushel. Now my success in this business depends only on the fidelity of the two men I have gone into partnership with. If they are faithful, I will certainly succeed as I expect. Now if I am successful this winter, my plan is to buy up a large tract of this land in which the trees grow, and go to the north next summer, and put the inventive genius of the Yankee to work out a machine by which the facilities for getting out the seed can be largely increased. It would be a simple contrivance and I think entirely practicable. Succeeding is that my fortune is made. I am very sanguine about this thing, and have but little doubt of success. But if it fails I have another project, but little less promising in success which awaits me. I am determined to make a fortune in a few years

and then I want us all to live together
in some place - when we can live
together in peace and happiness - that's
the great end aim and object of all
my hopes and aspirations, and the burden
of my daily prayers.

Now having disposed of my own
case let us turn to yours, and consult
about what is the best course for you
to pursue for the present.

I am not sufficiently informed as
to the relative advantages of the two
places, whether to advise you to go into
business in Richmond or Hampton. But
looking to the future benefit & advantage
of our children, which it is the duty of
every parent to do, I am somewhat
disposed to favor Richmond. I am afraid
too that Hampton, with all the great
changes that have taken place since
the commencement of war ~~that it would~~
no longer be the Hampton of old to
any of us - that it would be indeed like
"trading about some banquet hall
deserted" - none of the old buildings
and but few of the ~~old~~ faces to bring

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

Camden Nov. 17th 1866

Dear Georgie.

I owe you an apology for not answering your letter before; but I have been so much bothered and annoyed for some time past that I have felt in no mood for writing.

In the first place I have had considerable sickness in my family this fall which has taken up the whole of my spare time; and then I have been busily engaged in making arrangements to move back to Little Rock. My family was so anxious to move back to their old home, and the prospects in this part of the state looked so gloomy that I had determined to leave and take up my abode once more in Little Rock. Accordingly I contracted to sell my property here & made my arrangements to leave the old Rapley place which had been very much injured by the war repaired & fixed up. I expected to have left here about this time, But the gentleman with whom

I had contracted to sell my place but
found the work & frustrated all my
plans. And as the prospects of this place
have of late considerably brightened up by
the prospect of a Railroad being speedily built
from this place to the Mississippi river, I
have concluded to hold on here a while
longer and wait for further developments.
I am secretary of the Company that proposes
to build this road; and if the work is under-
taken the position I hold will be a good
paying office besides the advantageous
opportunity it will give me for making
profitable investments. The Legislature now
in session will I think furnish the Com-
pany with sufficient funds to build the
road. If this is done I think I will
make this my permanent home; but
otherwise will move back to Little Rock
which is a thriving & growing City.

My family are all well and were
very glad to hear from you. My Sister
Mary and all of her children except Charrie
have gone down to Shreveport to pay

a visit to Willie Rapley who is doing busi-
ness there as a Commission Merchant. He
having married a young lady of that
City just before the close of the war. Lizzi
is engaged to be married to Col. Geo. R.
Fellow a lawyer of this City who now
represents this Senatorial district in the
State Legislature. They expect to be married
sometime this winter.

I was very glad to learn that you had
been fortunate enough to take a course
at the University. But I fear you have im-
posed a greater labor upon yourself in
trying to take a degree in one session, than you
can perform with due regard to your health -
which you must always bear in mind is of
the utmost importance to preserve. A culti-
vated mind with broken down health will
avail you much less, especially in the pro-
fession you have adopted, than vigorous
health with less mental cultivation. The
mind is always susceptible of improvement
even from the most feeble condition; but
it is not always so with the body which

if defeated by bad health it may be
impossible, even to return to vigor. I
would advise you if you see the least
indications of failing health from an
overburden of studies, to reduce them to
the proper standard. I wish I was in
circumstances to give you a second course
so that you could prosecute the first with
more ease & freedom. But I don't know yet
whether or not I will be able. If I can &
you need it, I will certainly help you.
I would advise you to cultivate the faculty
of speaking, as much as possible. You
will find that one of the greatest aids in
entering successfully upon the practice. Give
much attention to the moot Courts; and this
one thing of all other obscure and low rank
in mind: don't stand in jeopardy of a failure!
That's the great bugbear in the way of young
beginners. Never aim too high; but adjust
yourself to the ordinary standard of your ca-
pacity; this will enable you to tread safely.
And once having ascertained your level &
accustomed yourself to an easy, ^{frank} style, then
you can go on in advancement & improvement.
write to me often as you can your aff. brother Tho: C. Peck

University of Va. Nov. 18⁶⁶.

My dear Jesse,

I was very glad to receive your last letter and would have answered it long ago but I have not had time.

You didn't tell me what books you were studying at Mr. Rayman's school and how many scholars he had, and all about your school-room. I will promise that if you will get head of all your classes and stay there one month I will give you a gun as soon as I get some money. And if you get head in half I will give you a knife.

How is little Milton. I was very sorry to hear in Sister's letter that he was still quite sick. Poor little fellow, I hope he will soon get well and walk all about.

I took a long walk to the top

of a mountain the other day
and looked over ~~all~~ the
country for many miles around.
Mr. Jefferson built his house
on the top of a little moun-
tain up here, so that he could
get the nice fresh air in the
summer time but I reckon
it's mighty cold up there in
the winter time. I want you
to tell me all about Mr. Jeffe-
son in your next letter and
I will write about him too.

Do you know about Mr. Mon-
roe? Well, he used to live in
a house very near where I am
now living and he & Mr. Jeffe-
son used to go to Charlottesville
every Court-day and talk to
the people. I saw a very old
man the other day who had a
gray headed son standing by him.
And he told me that he and
Mr. Jefferson & Mr. Monroe were
very intimate friends and talked to-
gether very often. Write to me
every week. Your aff. brother
George.

University of Virginia

November 20th. 1866.

My dear Pa,

I was very glad to get your letter on yesterday for I had not heard from home for two weeks.

Your letters are always the most acceptable to me and I am much pleased to know that my cheerful and hopeful feelings are a source of pleasure to you. I am fully convinced of the fact that circumstances frequently make men.

He who feels the keen necessity of want will be forced by it to acquire those requisites necessary to relieve his need. Some resorted for physical labor or whose tastes dictate to them another course seek to accomplish this end by the operations of the mind; but in either case necessity is the mother of industry.

Hence it is that those fathers who

leave to their children riches bestow
also the legacy of sloth and in-
dolence, unless indeed they with
great difficulty instill into their
minds those principles which
are the springs of a laudable am-
bition. Therefore I think you should
have no regret that unfavorable
fortune has compelled you to leave
the necessity of ~~working~~ ^{supplying} their
own wants to your children; for
in bestowing that which seems to be
the most desirable you assume
the very uncertain and difficult
obligation of implanting in their
minds other motives for action.

In justification of this view we
are only to look at the children
of the rich in spending their
profligate lives to no purpose,
and on the other hand to observe
the sure and steady efforts of
the poor man's son which lift

him by degrees to places of influ-
ence and respectability.

But in these observations we im-
mediately perceive there is one
thing necessary, and that is the
legacy of a good name. That, my
dear Pa, we have already received.

The example of the father is the
true precept to the son. The recollec-
tion of his life all more indelibly
impressed on his mind and ex-
erts more influence over his ac-
tions and conduct than all else
besides. This is the great consola-
tion you should have - that all
your children with one accord
agree in acknowledging the val-
ue of this legacy you will give
them. For whatever is sad in your
history melts them to tears - what-
ever is good reminds them of their
obligations to their God, and whatever
is charitable fills them with a love

for their fellow men - all tending
to perfect those great qualities
of ~~heart~~ which make true
greatness, and especially those
requisites that constitute a Chris-
tian man. But I will desist
from these reflections and talk
about home.

I suppose the dining-room
is considered a valuable addi-
-tion to the house, but I wonder
what arrangement has been
made to keep the Chimney
from smoking. I am very sorry
to hear that Mr. Burcher is
so low. I am afraid by this
time he is dead. I don't want
you to send any thing in my
~~box~~ but those things I have
mentioned in a former letter -
I think I would like to have
a pair of Mittens - with a thumb
and six fingers. These will keep

[25 Nov. 1866/5]

my hands warm in going and com-
-ing from lecture.

I am very well supplied here
with every thing I want to eat
and the days of pickled oysters
and biscuits are in existence
before the war.

I suppose you will go to
Richmond to spend your Christ-
mas? But then I hardly know
what Ma. will do at home
without you. My work-mate
promises to send me a big box
at Christmas when he goes home
and together with the big din-
-ner Miss Ross will give us,
and also considering the fact
my purpose here is to feel
the mind and not so much
the body I think I'll spend
Christmas pretty well after all.
But it is now getting late
and I must not waste

any more of that time which
belongs to Morpheus -

Tell Jesse I am going
to write him a letter and
in it I will tell him a
story, and I hope it will
be as good as those he
reads in McShuppi's room.

My love to all -

Your affect, son

George

Dear George

Hampton Dec 6th 1866

we received your report This morning
and will write you a few lines in return on
a part of the old sheet. with this you will
receive your pants you cannot change those
with your black ones therefore when you put
on you will ^{have} to keep them on all the winter
and cease to wear your blk ones until next
summer unless you put a pair thin drawers
under them, Hampton is alive once more with
negro soldiers they have just discharged a reg
iment here and they are making their money
fly - well in reference to your law case I hap
ly know how to advise you I recollect of havi
a case of this class once a young man purchas
some goods from me once and failed to pay
for them. I warrant the gentleman with whom
he was at work with for the amt. of the bill he
having directed me to let the young man have
them the case was referred to two old lawyers and
it all seemed to hinge on this one thing. I was
asked if the goods was cut off and sold before
the old gentleman assumed the debt I proved
that they were not cut off before the old man
assumed the debt and therefore got a judgment
in my favour but if the young man had have
left the store with the goods and the old man

of course in he would pay for the bill the
 young man had made with me I would
 have lost my money unless he had had
 some one in writing I mentioned the case
 to the Thomas son years ago in the
 and he was of the opinion that a third party
 could not hold himself responsible for
 another's act without having some
 thing but I am clearly of the opinion of
 a man as such the fault of another
 must be it is especially if any thing like death
 should take place



Thomas

University of Virginia, }
 December 1, 1866. }

Sir:

The laws of this institution make it the duty of the Chairman, at the end of every month, to communicate to the parent or guardian of each Student, the number of times his son or ward has been absent from lecture, together with such other information relative to his progress and deportment as may be deemed worthy of particular notice. The means of determining whether the Student has been attentive and regular or otherwise are thereby afforded his parent or guardian: the early and earnest exercise of whose authority is requested when the Report shall indicate the need of it.

Whenever information in relation to the diligence or progress of a Student shall be desired, such information will be transmitted in the monthly Circular.

Mr. Geo. M. Peck has been absent from lecture during the past month as follows:

SCHOOLS.	ABSENT.	REMARKS.
LATIN LANGUAGE, PROF. PETERS.		
GREEK & HEBREW LANGUAGES, PROF. GILDERSLEEVE.		
MODERN LANGUAGES, PROF. SCHELE.		
MATHEMATICS, PROF. VENABLE.		
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, PROF. SMITH.		
CHEMISTRY AND PHARMACY, PROF. MAUPIN.		
MEDICINE, PROF. HOWARD.		
PHYSIOLOGY, COMPARATIVE ANATOMY & SURGERY, PROF. CABELL.		
ANATOMY, MATERIA MEDICA, & BOTANY, PROF. DAVIS.		
MORAL PHILOSOPHY, PROF. MCGUFFEY.		
HISTORY AND LITERATURE, PROF. HOLMES.		
LAW, COMMON AND STATUTE LAW, PROF. MINOR.	Never	
LAW, EQUITY, MERCANTILE, INTERNA'L & CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, &c. PROF. SOUTHALL.	never	

S. MAUPIN,
 Chairman of the Faculty.

(written on a grade sheet of George which was sent to Thomas A. Peek Esq.)

Hampton Decb. 6th 1866

Dear George

We received your report this morning and will write you a few times in return on a part of old sheet, with this you will receive your pants you cannot change those with your black ones therefore when you put them on you will have to keep them on all the winter and cease to wear your blk ones until next summer unless you put a pr thin draws under them, Hampton is alive once more with negrow soldiers they have just discharged a regiment here and they are making their money fly = Will in reference to your law case, I hardly know how to advice you I recolect of having a case of this class once a young man purchases some goods from me once and failed to pay for them. I warrent the gentleman with whom he was at work with for the amt.,,of the bill he having directed me to let the young man have them the case was refered to two old lawyers and it all seemed to hinge on one thing. I was asked if the goods was cut off and sold before the old gentleman assumed the debt I proved that they were not cut off before the old man assumed the debt and therefore got a judgement in my favor - but if the young man had have left the store with the goods and the old man of come in he would pay the bill the bill the young man had made with me I would have lost my money unless he had have said so in writing. I mentioned the case to Thomas some years after that time and he was under the opinion that a third party could make himself responsible for anothers action without saying so in writing but I am clearly of the opinion if a man assures the debt of another he must as it in writing to make it binding expecially if anything like death should take place.

University of Virginia

Decr. 9th. 1866.

My dear brother,

The last letter you wrote me, was about the burning of that negro girl on Peadee, and about Ashby's sickness. I was very much pleased with your letter and was in hopes of having another one very soon after, but you did not write. Now I hope that Ashby is well and that he has some nice straw in his house &c. I am going to bring home with me a nice smooth-haired pointer when I come, but when I get home I shall expect to hear you stand your examination at Mr Raymond's school. I hope you will know a great many things and will do what I told you about getting head of your classes, if you want a gun. Now that you may do this - you must first make up your mind to do it any how, then you must remember and not forget that you have resolved to do it. In order that you may not forget it ask your

Ma to be always telling you about it. I know that when I was a boy like you I would resolve to do a certain thing certainly, and then would go off and forget it. Now a boy is very apt to forget to do what he has determined to do, because he cannot see the great importance of it. Hence it is that he has to be whipped not for what he would not do, but for what he forgot to do. I am very sorry that I had to whip you for this very thing when you had so many to remind you of your duty.

You no doubt recollect that golden rule that is in almost every reading book. That rule teaches you what your mother teaches you and what your tender affections would know without having read it in a book. But I have a golden rule which is a better one than that and it is - "Know your duty and do nothing else until you have done that." Oh! how happy I would be to go home next summer and find

that my little brother had kept my golden rule. And how happy you would be to meet and tell me when you took my hand, "Oh! brother Georgie, I have kept your golden rule." I think that I would almost cry with joy. For this rule that I give you embraces that other rule that you know and many other little and good rules besides, and it has a reward which you will enjoy while you are keeping it and after you have kept it.

But now I must ask you to write me a long letter next time and tell me about the railroad at Newport's News, and how big Mr. Blewin's house is, how many scholars Mr. Raymond has and how much holiday you will have at Xmas?

Tell me how brother Sully is and if he has gone to Old Point Wet - and about brother Eddy - when he comes up from the Pip Paps.

To day he is at home - last night he came up and Pa and Ma were both glad to see him. I wish that

I could see him and brother Lucy
to-day and we could all sit
down together in the Dining-room
and smoke and talk. I love, on
Sunday, to forget for the time all
about the Saw and think of
nothing but home. I do not think
of Hampton when I think of you
all and home. My mind walks
in to town without taking any
notice of the place until I walk
in the front gate. Then I see the
Willow trees and flowers I helped
to plant and our house which
is our home and when I get in
there I lie down on the little bed
and when I come to myself again
I find I have taken a sound
nap at home -

Give my very best love to all
and remember to keep my
rifle the best you can and I
will reward you for it one of
these days - Your affectionate
brother
George

Richmond Va Decr 16. 1866 —

Dr. Pa

Yours of the 13th was rec^d this morning -
We have been anxiously looking for you for the
past few days & were much disappointed at your
not coming. hope the threatened attack may pass
you by & that you certainly will come with Eddie
if not before. Will Charlie not come? I
dont think it probable that Georgie will be
here & I'd like to have as many of the family
present as possible —

Domine is very anxious to go to Hampton & as soon
as he is able to travel I think I will let him
go - he has been quite sick the last week - had
a very severe chill & high fever on Thursday which
prostrated him very much - yesterday he had
another but not near so severe. He is up &
about today & seems pretty well. but this is his
chill day & I dont know how it will be with him
at its close —

Little Willie has been worse off during the past
week than he has ever been with his bowels -
having had passages from every 15 or 20 minutes to
an hour or so for 2 1/2 days & nights - I began to
fear his time was up, but yesterday he was better
had no passage during last night & today is
pretty smart — all the rest are very well -

Lis was saying when she first came up that you
were hoping to receive \$100. from Chas. Jones. but
I reckon he will hardly come up - If you could
manage to raise some money for me, it would
greatly relieve me just now. I am worse off
for funds than I have ever been since the fall of
Richmond - The paying of the rent on the place not
only took all I had but I was compelled to part

with what silver I had. make up its deficiency -
I have been disappointed in selling what little
stuff I had on the place - made a fine crop
of turnips but can't get no sale for them -
have 'em but able to sell horses, carts &
farming utensils - & if I take them to auction
they will bring nothing - all these combined have
cramped me considerably & besides I have to
raise \$60. for George by the 1st of Jan'y
I wish you would see Father & see if there is
any possibility of raising anything -

I have a good stock of groceries &c on hand &
if I could raise 75 or 100. for present necessities I
would be quite much relieved

Do you think there would be any sale for
the horse in Hampton - If so I might
send him down with Tommie on the wagon
when he gets able to go - you might have
some one at the wharf to meet him -

I doubt however whether anything could be
done with him down there now unless some
of those ridge boys who know him, should
want him - He is in good order & you
might enquire around -

If the doctors are not too costly & troublesome
we might appreciate a visit now more highly
than of yore - They are more of a
novelty now than formerly -
While I am writing I shall drop them a
line - It has been some time since we heard
from him -

Don't fail to come soon

Affely
D. S. Peck

University of Virginia
Dec: 23rd. 1866.

My dear brother Jesse,

You and Pa were good enough to write me another nice letter - in which you gave me a good deal of news. I didn't know that any negroes had killed Mr. Woodward before. I suppose Mr. Tatt was the lawyer who prosecuted them.

You must tell me how big the house is Cousin Mary Ann is building and who is building it.

I hope you'll have a merry Christmas this year and a plenty of Candy and cake to eat. I have holiday for two days, but don't expect to take much time from my studies.

I would like to know what

name you'd give that little
pointed puppy if I were to
let you have him? I am going
to see that man about him
tomorrow; but you recollect
what I said about your les-
sons! If Mr. Raymond don't give
a good account of you
when I come home you shant
have him. You must tell me
how many whippings you've
had since you have been going
to the College and whether
you like Mr. Raymond or
not. How is little Willam, can
he talk yet?

Sister says you haven't written
to her since she has been in
Richmond. I think you are
improving very much in your
letters, and if you will take
my letter when you write again
and commence it by stating

it like I do, it will be better -
Commence like this:

Hampton Virginia,

Dec^r 25th. 1866.

My dear bro: Georgie,

I received your
last letter &c -

Commencing all your sentences
with a Capital letter and every
line directly under the preceding
one so as to keep them straight
on the left. Now see what a
very fine letter you can write
me next time. You didn't tell
me how Mr. Bunches is, or whether
he has died. We have had snow
on the ground here for more
than a week and it looks
like it going to snow again
tonight. Don't you wish you
were here to slide and eat
snow and sugar. I am in-
-vited to 3 Egg-nog dumplings to

Come off in the Christmas, but I
shall not go to but one.

Give my love to all - I wish
you a merry Christmas
but take care you dont burn
your fingers when you fire
those poppers off -

Your brother
George

University of Virginia
Decr. 30th. 1866.

My dear Jesse,

I believe you already owe me a letter, but as it is Sunday night and I shall not have a better opportunity to write I must let you hear from again -

I have had nice Christmas tump here, nicer than you think I reckon. Miss Ross my boarding house-keeper had Turkey, and goose and other nice meats with oysters for the first course at the table, on Christmas day, for dinner, and for the second course she had pound cake, Cakes, jelly, Plum-pudding, lemon-pudding, mince-pies and oranges cut up with sugar and Cocoa-nut grated over them.

Now dont you think I had a nice dinner. I wish you had have had as nice a one. I thought about you all at home very much during the Christmas and wanted to send you a Christmas gift, but I concluded to bring it down with me when I go home next summer. Richard wrote me a long letter the other day and said that Old Morgan was dead and he and Johnny had buried him and turfed his grave.

Sister was there but I reckon she is at home by this time.

You must write to me and tell me what sort of a holiday you spent. I have had to work very hard since Tuesday to prepare all my lectures. I have to write more than sixty pages every week; and at the end of the session I'll have two or three books -

Mr. Mallory Shield has been in my room all day and we have been talking about Hampton all the time. I told him about some of the news you wrote me in your last letter and he was surprised to hear it.

Mr. Paul has come back from his trip home and brought a box of good things -

It was ~~filled~~ full of chestnuts and almonds -

But I would rather have my box than his. My pants fit me very well but I had to get a pair of suspenders to wear with them - I wear my mittens every day to lecture and they keep my hands very warm.

I am very well to night and hope you all at home are well too -

You must give my love to all, and ask Cousin Puss where is that jar of brandy peaches or pickled oysters she was to send me on Christmas -

Affly. your brother

George -

Richmond Dec 31st 1866

My dear Ma

I thought I should have been with you Saturday night, but could get no farther than the wharf for when we reach there we found there was no boat. We determined then to take the train this morning but I am again sadly disappointed. About twelve o'clock last night bro Johnny came up stairs, woke me and said aunt Pigeon was very sick and wanted me to go down while he went after Dr. Smith. Aunt Pigeon was in a great deal of pain, and became so weak after a while that she could not turn herself over.

To satisfy I got bro Eddie to go after bro Johnny and hasten them on. The ground was covered in snow, and it was still fast falling as it is now. They arrived a little after one and the bro remained until nearly four. She is this morning easy but the doctor says she must keep her bed for several days.

She asked me to stay with her and of course I do not think it would be right for me to leave her now however much I want see home, especially as Betty is not at home - she went out to spend

yesterday at Camp Winder and has not
get returned. It would be rather bad for us
if she has gone off with her worthless husband
for as slow as she is aunt Pigeon would miss her
for she says she likes her better than any she has
yet tried. Aunt Pigeon's attack was of womb disease
she had never suffered with it so violently before
and being in a peculiar condition she was afraid
that serious results might follow. The doctor
gave her medicine to relieve her, and ordered
that she wear some sort of a thing I don't
know what. She has been taking too much
exercise in the house recently and has
completely broken herself down.

When is aunt Lucy coming up. I hope to be
able to get down in a week and will let
you know what day that some or many
meet me at Newport News.

Aunt Pigeon sends some butter for you, says
that she would not send it to grandpa
because he would not send the mackerel
the bucket was fixed up Friday afternoon
the cake is for Lizzie, that wrapped up
for aunt Mollie, and the small ones for
Sarah. I have a bottle of tomato for
grandpa. Hoping to see you all soon
I am most affectionately

Sis -

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

[ca 1866]

of the law as not to be refreshed
by the delightful thoughts of those
I have left - more pleasing and
gratifying than the roses' shade
to the weary traveler.

I hope you will excuse this di-
gression and be pleased to put
up with a weakness peculiar to
your brother, and thank your stars
that he failed to write a poem
on the occasion.

By the way, this makes me think
of my papers which are in my
drawer up stairs - It would per-
haps be well if you would collect
them - placing my letters of rec:
in your trunk and taking care of
the rest as you please -

My love to all - The other side
is for Jesse -

Your aff: brother George

My dear Jesse,

You cannot tell how much pleased I was when I received a letter from you.

Your brother Georgie is very anxious that you should write him a letter every week and send it when Sister don't see him. I would have you to be a very smart boy and stand at the head of your class.

I once knew a little boy who said he would write four pages every week and read one hour every day after he had revised his lessons. And when he came to be a man he found he had written a book of 250 pages and knew the names of all the great men in the world.

I knew another little boy who used to read all the notices in writing he saw and every

news paper he could get - This same little fellow after he came to be a man wrote the reports of many great battles and the messages of a President. These little boys were not as smart as you are nor did they have any school books to study like you have; if they had I reckon they would have been the greatest men in the world. I hope you will study well this winter so that when I come home next summer you will be enabled to write in my office and be a little lawyer-boy. How do you like that?

Well now I hope you will mind all your Ma + Sister says to you and know that when you are getting your lesson that it would do your

Your brother Georgie more good
to see you than to have the
largest stick of Candy in the
World.

You must tell George Willie
about these little boys and
ask him if he can't beat
them. Pat Ashby on the head
and when you have your
picture taken you must
have him by your side -

Give my love to brothers
Eddy + Charlie and write
me another letter very soon.

Your affectionate brother
Georgie.

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

1867, 1870,
1872

Folder 8 of 9

Richmond Jan 5th. 67

My dear Ma

I would have written before to let you know how aunt P was getting along, but I supposed there were no mails on account of the river being blocked up by the ice and consequently useless for me to write.

Today is the first time aunt P has been down stairs, having been in her room ~~for~~ a week, part of the time in bed. She seems to be very well but weak and do not expect any thing else but that she will walk her ~~self~~ down again, where there are five such bad children as these and but one servant to do everything there is a great

deal to be done. The children
are all very well, and Wummy
is getting so well that his pa
thinks it hardly necessary for
him to visit Hampton for his
health as he intended.

I really do not know whether
you all want me to come
home or not for if I must
judge of your affection for
me, from the number of letters
I have received from home
my long absence then
you do not wish to see me
much. Ask Jesse if I
must measure his love
by the number of letters he
has written me if so he
cares very little for me, for
I have not received a

single line from him since
I have been from home.
I pity Bro Georgie if he hears
from home as seldom as
I have done for nearly two
months. Its too late to
write now however, for I
shall make another
attempt to reach home on
next Friday. Bro Eddie
must have had a time
getting home. I cannot
imagine where he staid
all night. I hope I shall
not meet with any ill luck
on my way, for I have just
enough money to take me
home, as he had.
I supposed you have heard
from Georgie since Christmas

He spent a very pleasant
time and received a half-
years present of a nice pen
from his Georgia friend.

Bro. Johnnie gave me a
nice dress for my Xmas gift.

Please let Daniel Rowd
that I expect to come down
on Friday as he said he
would meet me at

Newport News. I should be
in a bad fix if I were to
stop there and then find
to take me to Newport News.

Most affectionately

Sis.

University of Virginia
Jan'y. 20th. 1867.

My dear Sis,

I suppose you have arrived at home by this time after your long visit to Richmond, and I shall have a speedy answer to my letter with all the news you promised to give - The snow has been falling since sunrise this morning, and as it was already about 6 inches deep I suppose it to be nearly two feet deep now -

We have had snow on the ground for more than a month and we are becoming very tired of it, especially when india rubber shoes must be put on whenever it is necessary to go out. Warm overcoats and shawls are in very great demand here and I am very glad that I am so well provided for -

Your abstract has been of very great advantage to me and I only regret that I was unable to get more of it - But it was so very expensive to me to write last summer that it was impassible for me to copy it - You have no idea what assistance it has been to me - The greatest labor of the law student here is writing and the

more of this he has already done the more times he has for reading. The good young ladies of Charlottesville frequently assist their beaux in a most laudable manner by copying their abstracts through out. This is a most excellent trait they possess and I will assure you the students like it very much. I must confess, however, that I have not yet been so fortunate - Not that I have made any effort in that direction however.

My first Examinations will come off in one week from to-morrow - then three others will follow in quick succession - Of course we are all very busy and some of us very much excited on the subject.

I suppose you have called on the bride and found her very smiling - I must know all about the affair when you write for I have not received an account since the marriage - Will they live at Uncle George's or is Mr. Blein's house done?

I heard some time ago that some negroes attempted to take a store-keeper out of his store to hang him but there was a considerable disturbance in town in consequence.

You must give me all the particulars in your next - I have been without

a letter from home for nearly two weeks again; but I suppose its because the river is frozen up - and from the present prospect I think it will remain so for many days. If there is any Baltimore boat I think a letter might be sent by that route -

I am enjoying very good health, and only have a swelling of the head occasionally, on account of the vast amount law I'm trying to get in it - the same head you know of which it has been said -

We have a queer genius living in my house who studies very hard; but for many nights he has been troubled with sleepy eyes. But finally he hit upon an expedient to keep them wide awake. Never having taken a chew of tobacco he was confident that it would have the desired effect -

He thereupon put in a chunk as he called it and worked away - He was heard afterwards to remark "It interfered right smartly with my stomach but, by jucks! it kept my eyes open" The same fellow got very mad with his head because it wouldn't comprehend a mathematical problem and "fotch it a lick" which brought it up against the mantle piece in such a manner as to set it perfectly level -

University of Virginia

January 27. 1867

My dear Sis,

Your very interesting letter was received early last week and you shorten one of the 21st. yesterday. I am astonished at the number of marriages that have occurred in Hampton since last October - I am really afraid I shall have to go away to look for a wife, a thing which I deprecate very much for I believe in the maxim that "Charity begins at home" - a quotation which you may think entirely out of place -

Miss Lou W. - then has ceased to consider the proposition of of Mr. N. and has consented to marry Mr. W. - A very pretty match indeed and perhaps the most appropriate of all.

The sensation about the great
Addington-Nicks wedding I sup-
pose has somewhat subsided.

No time could have been better
for the politic lady to make her
exit from the carpet than the
time she selected - a period in
the history of our town so fraught
with similar occurrences that her
performance was soon lost sight
of in the rapidity and magnitude
of the others. Hymen has indeed
been making sacrifices and the
poor old "corn feds" wooed by
the soft sounds of his inticing lute
have yielded up their necks to
the yoke and the many mouthed
dame "Gossip" regales herself
on the delicious brands that are
thrusty spread before her - the fruit
or rather the roasted meat of
the sacrifices - Madame Rumor
is a vague sort of somebody - a

hearsay individual who stands be-
hind the curtain and aids her
sister "gossip" but very little in
procuring a repast, but when
facts occur the dame smiles with
ineffable delight; and I think if at
any time she can be called pretty
it is then. She sets all her moments
to smiling, all her eyes to laughing
and I doubt not she enjoys the
heat exceedingly.

To judge from your letter dame
gossip has been abroad since
you left and collected facts -

I am very glad to hear of Tom
Tabb's success - and as to my having
any one to tell it to I will remind
you that Mallory Shields is here
and comes to see me every Sun-
day when I relate all the news
I have received during the
week. Of course I told him
about Miss Jinnies promise &

[27 January 1867/5]

debated the chances of her compliance - He are of opinion that she will break ground - Six months is too long to put off so important a matter. Questions of importance should be settled at once and the minor preliminary affairs may be agreed upon hereafter.

When Mrs. Hicks and her husband comes to Hampton or in other words when the parties to the Addington-Hicks affair arrive, I wish you would remind the "beautiful bride" of her kind promise to send me a jar of brandy peaches. I have no doubt that in the pleasures of double blessedness she has in a measure forgotten it, but needs only to be reminded of so just and equitable ^{an} obligation she once placed herself under to me, and in the plenitude of her graciousness she will immediately discharge it.

You are very right in thinking that I would be interested in the births also. I am pleased to hear of the marriages for Dr. Minor says "marriage is honorable and profitable to the community", but especially am I pleased to hear of any additions that may be made to our population however young the inhabitants may be. I think it a very happy occurrence for Causey and I have no doubt he begins to feel his ^{importance} _{and}.

as one of the fathers in the community. Concerning the name of the new comer I must confess that I am right smartly interested.

We have a great many new people coming amongst us but have no or few new names to give them so that they are compelled "ex vi termini" to take the old worn out names of those who have gone before. And I attribute that to this cause. Many people, indeed, wanting in general are exceedingly desirous of having their names to posterity so that if they cannot do it by imprinting their signatures on the bronzed tablets of enduring memory by achieving illustrious deeds "with which Jove's trumpet rings" they will engrave them on posterity itself when helpless infancy cannot resist the affront. And I think that men throwing away this selfish

disposition should endeavor to invent new names ~~from~~ for their babies. If I should be called on to invent a name for him I believe I'd call him "Mussatās", and I have no doubt he would deserve it before he became very old. But I reckon I'm making my letter most too long to leave space for Tommy's & Jesse's. Tuesday I will have my fish Examination. Last Saturday night I delivered myself of a huge declamatory speech in the Wash. Society - preparatory to the thunderings of coming years - Write after -

Love to all - Your bro -
George

My dear Jesse,
I will endorse
on the back of Sister's letter

an answer to your last communication. Thomas you say has been eating shell-fish for breakfast and dinner - a most enticing delicacy. I do wish I had some. Now can't you get brothers Carly & Eddie to take up a small collection, and get a tin bucket or a stone jar, pickle some of those fine shell-fish and get Mr. Adams' Express Co to bring them to me?

I could steal some biscuits from the table and have a fine repast.

And you think "Ashby" is a fine dog do you? I wonder if he could find a flock of birds now, or will he be able to start a hare by next October so as to give a fellow a chance at her?

You must not be so impatient

Next time & let Sis close her post-
script when she wants to -

Your aff. bro. Geo

My dear Tommy,

Your letter
had no blots on it at all -
and I think you will write
a very good hand by & by.
I am sorry you have been
so sick, but you must try
and get well so that we
can go sailing next sum-
mer. Jip, I suppose, is al-
most as large as you are
now: I reckon he is the biggest
boy that goes to Cousin
Pessie -

You must take care of your-
self and get right well by
the time I come down
and we'll have some
fine times -

Your bro

Geo Geo

Surprise Hill Feb ^{the} 7 1867

My beloved friend, cousin and mother

When I began to write to you I should have known how to begin, what to call you my darling I have been intending all the winter to write you a few lines but can not find time I was sick all the summer and fall - but have goter write now since the birth of the baby he was born on the 17th of ~~the~~ November. I had a very good time he is the longest baby I ever had he weighed 11 1/2 lb when he was born I call him Charles ~~John~~ after Faddy's little boy I have been sick so long every body thought I would die nor have a hard time but I got a long very well, then what was with me I had a black ~~and~~ no woman that did not know anything mental, but with it I got along very well she did as good to me as she could be I did wish for cousin I could not help crying for my dear cousin how I did miss you, I was trying to write you while the baby is sleep, got a letter from you sometime ago I was very glad to hear that you all were all doing so well I hope they had ~~and~~ many continue to bless you and all those noble boys. God bless them give us best love to Mr. Pack, ~~and~~ I should like like to see you all but I fear it will be along time before we get together again we can see how not get us home we have had a dreadful month snowing and freezing all the time it is quite warm today, what made Lizzy marry William No what dose Mrs. Hicks think of it do get in to tell me all about it when did you see Paty how ~~did~~ ~~get~~ ~~get~~ is he getting along poor child do you think he will ever get any thing to do I do wish he could get in business I feel so sorry for him he writes me how kind you are to him many thanks to you. Nancy has kind friends

hear she is living with Sally Brent she assist her in
keeping house close anything she can she can do anything
she pays her board she is a good child I do not know
what she would do but for Novellon Thudnal she
gives her all of her books and anything that she
thinks she wants, I do wish her so much she helps and so
much when she is here I would give anything in the world
to educate her so that she could get a little school when
she is grown she will not be dependant I hope the
Lord will provide for her do get sis to write to
me when she gets home and tell me all the news
I do love to hear from you all if I can not see
you, I must send her love to all Sally, her and all
I do love to hear from you all if I can not see
Patsy for his mother tell him to be a good boy
Mr Livingston sends his love to you and says he would
be glad to see you at any time and come to see us
this spring I should have said something
I want to see you coming I mean get a letter
from any one but Patsy Maria and her cousin
her cousin V. Blackwell dead last week with
cancer on her breast she died very sad
well I fear you will get tired of my scribble
I must bid you goodby

your dear
Sally
I do love to hear from you all if I can not see
you, I must send her love to all Sally, her and all
I do love to hear from you all if I can not see
Patsy for his mother tell him to be a good boy
Mr Livingston sends his love to you and says he would
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her cousin V. Blackwell dead last week with
cancer on her breast she died very sad
well I fear you will get tired of my scribble
I must bid you goodby

University of Virginia
Feb. 3rd. 1867.

My dear Sir,

I am very sorry the mails are so irregular as to leave me without a letter to answer to-night, so that I have not a particle of gossip to talk about. Well then I shall have to turn on the events - the real events that are transpiring here - Last Tuesday I stood my first examination on the whole of Mercantile Law and I flatter myself that I have really passed. Last year the examination on this book comprised only a single chapter - this year we take the whole book containing 17 chapters - A practical illustration of an extended course. My next examination will come off in one week from to-morrow.

Mr. Minor has been sick for two weeks, and it was thought at one time that he would not recover - the doctors think now that he will hardly be able to lecture again

this session. Mr. Southall is attempting to fill his place by reading his lectures to the class; but this will by no means make up for the loss we sustain in the sickness of our main professor. He has such a happy way of illustrating the abstruse questions of the law that they are readily understood and easily remembered. And then he questions so well and so very closely that we are almost compelled to learn with the slightest attention to the subject.

I am studying very hard and still entertain hopes of getting my B.S., if in the summer time I can only keep up to the task. But you must not expect it.

Give my love to Aunt Mollie and ask her please to write me another postscript.

My love to all -

Your aff. brother.

George

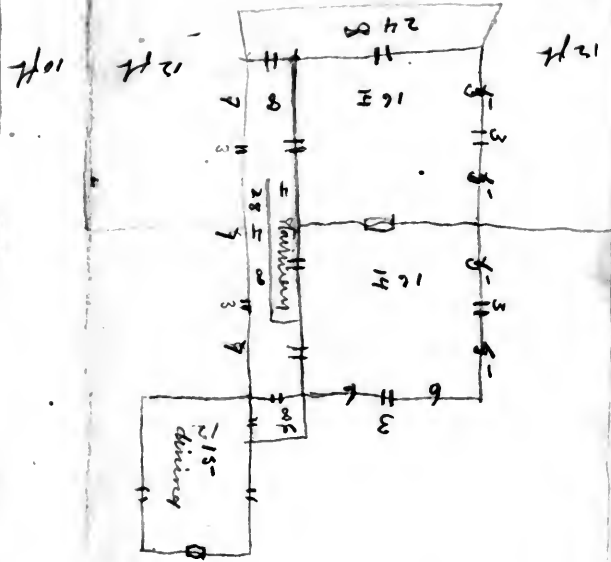
P.S. From a Little Rock paper I notice the arrival of J. C. Peck, Esq. in that City. He is connected with

a railroad company and is in Little Rock on business for the Co. - G. -

40
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University of Virginia
February 24th. 1867

My dear Sis,

Boths your letters

(one of the 16th & the other of the 21st.
inst.) reached me yesterday, and
I will assure you they were very
acceptable. I can always find
time to read letters from home
however pressing my duties
may be. I cannot conceive of
any examination however re-
-verse that could deprive me of
that privilege whenever it is
boeched safe to me - On the
contrary, the sands of the desert
are for the moment forgotten by
the caravan while taking their
meal of dates in the cool shade
of the oasis. The mariner thinks
little of the dangers of that ocean
whose trackless ~~paths~~ extent
he must traverse while regaling

himself in the vine clad vales of a sea-girt Madeira, so the student rising on the cresting billows of scientific research, although im-
-memently in danger of being engulfed in the fathomless mazes of confusion of thought, rejoices in mental satisfaction over the perusal of a letter from home!!

Or to carry out the former simile - he cares not how wild the wind rages or the sand flies on the broad Sahara of "The Infinite Variety of Human Concerns", in the quiet of that moment when he enjoys a repast on the "concerns" of home!!! So much for the short lived pleasure of a letter which is, as it were, a pause in the proceedings - something worthy of note - and if it occurred only once a year would partake of the character of an

angel's visit.

Your reasons for not sending the system are conclusive -

You must not be too inquisitive about brother Tommy's affairs. If he wishes to accomplish any thing he must keep his operations to himself or else he will lose his footing. For my part, I am entirely ignorant on the subject, and it is a much better plan to know nothing, for then the temptation to tell something would not occur. I think though it would be a most excellent plan for him to commence business in Richmond. I have been advising to that end all the time, and I know of no one he could join with more suitable than Mr. Cary -
A grand celebration came

off as appointed on the 22^d.
inst. And such a concourse
of fair ladies I have not
seen before for many a day.
Oh! the puffed white muslin
bodies and gorgeous stunts, the
we-bit of hats all hid with wide
ribbons, the immense protuberances
all held up with red bands
to the back of the head, the
red cappings & faces that dis-
played themselves on that oc-
casion cannot be told.

Many a fair young girl no
doubt hoped to entrap some
fine young student who
might easily persuade her
to go to his far off home
with him. "Who knows" perhaps
she said while primping and
trying to look as irresistible
as Helen herself, "that I
might catch some handsome
young student-to-night"; and
her light heart jumped at the
very thought. But alas! how
idle was the dream.

Ah! Ah! —

For my self I immediately sought

**MISSING
PAGE(S)**

June 6th 67

My Dear Friend

Your kind favor has been received & now I am duly appreciated as bringing long wished for tidings of the relatives of our esteemed & lamented friend Dr. Peck.

Love for his family, particularly his mother, was to my one of his most pleasing traits & so often expressed in my presence as to be very noticeable.

I take it for granted that anything relative to him will be acceptable. His stay with us was short, it is true, but long enough for us to perceive that he was moral, respectful, & attentive to his duties as a patient surgeon. Our family Physician

was chief of this Post & he always spoke of your brother in terms of commendation. While not engaged at the Hospital he spent nearly all his leisure hours at home wood being scarce at the time we kept but one regular fire which was in my room, making that the family sitting room & he never seemed better satisfied than when seated in the corner with a book or paper. said that it reminded him of his Mother's Chamber.

Sorrow seems to have been particularly the lot of the southern people during this last ~~war~~ six years for what family has not been bereft of some of its loved ones, it has been my fate to suffer with the rest & I had no right to expect exemption.

My oldest sister, a lovely character

with a family looking up to her for comfort & guidance,

a Protestant saw the sole support of his wife & children, & last but not least my own dear little girl, the brightest & sweetest of earth lived only fifteen months to gladden our hearts, & then left us for that bright world above.

Mysterious are the ways of Providence & it becomes us to bow humbly

before the Lord, knowing that the day will come when all will be explained to our satisfaction & to the glory of God. I must thank you for your kind invitation to visit you, but as it rarely suits me to leave home it is hardly probable that we will ever meet unless you can make it convenient to visit our beautiful mountain region, the sight of which I think will repay you for the trip

in that event allow me to
promise you a cordial welcome
to our cottage. With kind
regards & best wishes for yourself
& family I remain yours in
friendship

Samuel M. Houseworth

University of Virginia, }
July 1, 1867. }

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit to you the following notice of the standing of your *S. M.* *Mr. Geo. M. Bush* at the examinations held during the present session of the University. At these examinations the questions are proposed in writing and valued in numbers; and the students are subsequently arranged in four divisions, according to the merit of their examinations, as determined by the following method: The numerical values attached to all the questions are added together, and also the values of all the answers given by each student. If the latter number amounts to three fourths of the former, the student is ranked in the First Division: if it is less than three fourths and as much as one half, in the Second: if less than one half and as much one fourth, in the Third: if less than a fourth, in the fourth Division.

According to this mode of examination your *S. M.* stands

AT THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION:

In the	Division	of	Graduate in Law.
In the	Division	of	
In the	Division	of	
In the	Division	of	
In the	Division	of	

AT THE FINAL EXAMINATION:

In the	Division	of	
In the	Division	of	
In the	Division	of	
In the	Division	of	
In the	Division	of	

S. Maupin
Chairman of the Faculty.

JUN 6 1874



Mr Thomas Peck Esq
Hampton
Va

Camden August 17. 1867

My darling Sister.

Your letter containing the sad & painful intelligence of the death of our dear beloved father reached me yesterday. I have been dreading to hear of this event for some time past, knowing his feeble health & advanced age; but oh I had prayed & hoped so earnestly that we might be permitted to see each other once again on earth - that was one of the great wishes of my heart - one of the great objects of life I so earnestly longed to attain. But it has been denied me - and one of the sweetest anticipations of the future that contributed so much to rob the present of its gloom has faded away like most of my other dreams of earthly happiness. My heart is deeply grieved by this bereavement, and especially is it moved by the recollection

that he thought and spoke so tenderly of me in his last moments. There was a bond of peculiar love & sympathy between us which had never been expressed in words, but we knew and appreciated each others feelings. We were much alike, not only personally but in heart, sympathies & affections, and even in a great many little characteristic peculiarities. He knew well enough that I had his own sensitive sympathetic heart - his own unselfish self sacrificing love, his own tender regard & concern for those he loved; and besides all that I was his poor wandering boy whom misfortune had driven from the paternal roof to live with strangers in a strange land. all these thoughts and associations made him think and speak of me in his last moments with peculiar tenderness - not that he loved me better than his other children, for a parent's heart scarcely ever shows any degrees in love, but that my absence

and sad and chequered life called forth feelings that were not applicable to the condition of his other children. Oh what a sorrow to me to think that I was not permitted to attend him in his last moments - and to hear from his own lips the blessings which he bestowed on all his children. But I thank God that there is much to comfort and console me in this affliction. The goodness of God in allowing death to us much of the pain & anguish that usually attend it - the fact that he died of us violence; but quietly, peacefully sank to sleep in the bosom of his family surrounded by those whom he loved; and above all the glorious triumph of his faith & the certain promise of his entering upon the enjoyment of everlasting peace - all these considerations give me unspeakable comfort, and make me rejoice through the tears & sorrows of my human grief, that God has called him home to

exchange the pain & anguish
the cares and sorrows of this
unsatisfying world for the
glorious inheritance of the Saints
in everlasting life. — that "rest that
remaineth for the children of God".

My dear sister, my heart has been
so often bruised and crushed in the
past few years by the terrible blows
inflicted by the grim King of terrors,
that I am growing prematurely weary
of this life. Oh I so often wish, when I
call to mind the recollections of those
whom death has taken away, that all
of us could go at once to join those
who have gone before and are waiting
to welcome us to the happy land.

Death has no terrors for me except
this bitter, this crushing pain of
separation. When I think of the
almost constant & perpetual troubles
and sorrows of this life and con-
trast it with that life of unalloyed
joy & happiness that God has in-
volved for those who love him, I

[17 Aug 1867/5]

wonder how we can think of death
in any other light than as a blessed
Angel sent to deliver us from the most
painful bondage and restore us
to the life and joy of immortality. —
There is only one pang that he inflicts
on those who know the blessedness of his
mission & that is the pain of separation.
This is inseparable from the infirmi-
ties of our human nature. We cannot
help grieving for those who are taken from
us although we may know that they are
called to experience joys & happiness more
glorious & delightful than heart of man
can conceive. — And this pain of separation
oh how terrible and crushing it is, how
it bows the heart to earth and sinks
us almost to the very depths of despair.
But thank God not entirely in despair
does he allow our stricken hearts to
be sunk. — through the glow of sor-
row he causes a ray of benignant

hope to shine into our hearts, and
to give us in such moments, ^{such} an
entranced view of the glories of that
bright world to which our departed
ones have gone as to cause us to
lift up our hearts in thankfulness
& gratitude & reconcile us to the
afflicting hand that smote us.

Oh! what a joy it is to me to contemplate
the ineffable happiness that our dear
father now enjoys in the Spirit land.
His' bliss with many comforts in life,
his pilgrimage on earth like that
of all others was full of pain and
trouble - his heart like the heart of
every ^{other} sorrowing son of Adam
was always burdened with the
load of sin and sorrow - sad
heritage of man's fallen nature.
But now, how changed! No care, no
sorrow then, for sin never enters
them with its blighting withering
influence - all is peace, and joy

and rest - best heritage of the precious
death of our adored Savior -

Yes my sister, let us all endeavor
afresh to make our preparation for
that event which must sooner or
later overtake us all. Let us all pre-
pare to die. Let us all strive with renewed
diligence to follow the footsteps of our darling
father who has preceded us but a few
short years at best. Oh with what delight
he will welcome each one of us as we
reverently respond to the summons which
will soon be addressed to each one of us.
And not he alone, but all the others of
our dear departed ones will unite to wel-
come us to the courts of glory - Sweet
blest little band - my two darling
babies whom he was never permitted
to see in the flesh now nestle in his
loving bosom and enjoy ~~the~~
with infinitely increased tenderness the
love which they were not permitted
to know on earth. Oh I know

They are happy - as happy - and still
that happiness must increase as
the family circle increases on
earth and increases in Heaven.
And if it could be so - if we
could be as blessed as to see
that circle linked together as
closely by the ~~bands~~ of affection
in this world, restored in Heaven
- not one link broken - not
one member missed - oh what
a recompense it would be
for all the pain and anguish
that we have ever known on
Earth - All of my family
fully sympathize with me
in my bereavement, and
desire me to send you all the
warmest love & condoleance -
Give my love to all - Write
to me often -

Your affectionate
brother Thomas

To the Legislature of Virginia.

NORFOLK, VA., February 3rd, 1870.

To CHARLES SHARP, Esq:

My Dear Sir:—Mr. Geo. M. Peek, of Hampton, my friend and kinsman, has been spoken of for the position of County Judge for Elizabeth City and Warwick, and I beg of you, if you think him suitable, to address a letter, in his behalf, to Mr. Southall.

He is endorsed by Gen. Blow, Thomas Tabb, Esq., and others.

Very truly,
JAMES BARRON HOPE.

S. V. SOUTHALL, Esq:

My Dear Sir:—I know Mr. Peek well. He is thoroughly a gentleman, a good lawyer, and a patriotic Virginian. The Legislature cannot better serve the people of Elizabeth City, or the bar generally, in my judgment, than to select him for the County Judge of that county.

The appointment would be an admirable one. We practice at that bar, and all of our firm unite in unqualified preference for Mr. Peek as the Judge.

Very truly,
CHARLES SHARP,
For Scarborough, Duffield & Sharp.

I fully endorse the within as an old personal acquaintance of Mr. Peek.

WM. OLD, *Attorney at Law.*

I cordially concur in the foregoing recommendation.

JOHN GOODE, JR.
TAZEWELL TAYLOR.
JNO. S. TUCKER.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, December 17, 1869.

Geo. M. Peek, Esq., of Hampton, graduated in the School of Law of this institution in 1867, acquitting himself, as well during the session as at the examination, with signal success. * * * *

His abilities and character, as well as his professional learning, justified on the part of his friends hopes of eminent success, and afford me ample warrant for recommending him, as I very cordially do, for the judgeship of his county, for which, as I understand, he proposes to be a candidate.

JOHN B. MINOR,
Prof. Com. and Stat. Law.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, December 27th, 1869.

GEO. M. PEEK, Esq.:

Having been informed that your friends will urge upon our Legislature your eminent claims to the office of Judge in your county, I take great pleasure in expressing my hopes of your success.

I remember with much satisfaction the high position you maintained in the law class of the University for the session of 1866-'7, for ability, diligence and acquirement, and am fully satisfied that if elected, you will discharge the duties of the office, not only to the satisfaction, but with the general applause of your fellow-citizens. With great respect I remain,

Most truly yours, &c.,

S. O. SOUTHALL,
Prof. Equity and the Law Merchant.

Portsmouth Pa

February 2nd/72

Dear Cousin

Your kind note came to hand in due time, but many things have kept me from replying sooner, among which was moving into my new house.

I have finished little Bessie's sewing, and she is now ready to leave us. He will send her Monday, if the weather is good if not, the next fair day. We have to be quite careful of her health as she takes cold very easily.

He will miss her, and it pains us to part from her, but we are convinced it will be for her good, as she will be with one

who is far more capable of train-
ing her than I, and again she
has not means enough of her own
to take care of her, and of course
as my husband and myself have
the others, we could not do half
so well for her, as we are quite
poor, and for the sake of the
child I thank you, and in
my own name I thank you.

I will not waste words in
commending her to the affection
of you all; neither will I urge
her tender years, in order to enlist
your sympathies, for I well know
the care, and love that will
be bestowed on her by her kind
cousins. If I for one moment
doubted I would keep her with
me even if it were to share
my poverty; for the child
is very dear to me, I know

she will get home-sick
sometimes, at first; but that
will wear off, after a while
and I ask it of you that it
may not be regarded a dis-
satisfaction.

I have lost my darling child
and it casts a shadow over
my heart that will not be
chased away with soon.

Give my love to dear uncle
Willie, and tell him his affection-
ate letter reached me yesterday,
and I will reply when I
can.

Give our love to every one.
Renee will go over with Dannie
and return the next day.

Please let me hear from
Dannie when it is convenient
but if she should be sick let
me know immediately

and if she is very sick I will
come over and nurse her.
Now I will close.

Your affectionate
cousin

Belle.

#4720
PEEK FAMILY
PAPERS

Undated

Folder 9 of 9

NEW STORE!

NEW AND FRESH STOCK OF GOODS

AT

EAGLE ROCK, Va., on R. & A. R. R.

The undersigned begs to call the attention of the citizens of Craig and Botetourt Counties, to his large and varied Stock of

DRY GOODS, NOTIONS,

BOOTS, SHOES, HATS,

Ready-Made Clothing, Groceries, &c.

recently purchased and now open for inspection at this point. He will take pleasure in showing and pricing them to all who may favor him with a call and will endeavor to make it the **INTEREST** of all to give him their patronage. These Goods, **BOUGHT FOR CASH**, will be sold at a very small advance on the cost, for cash, or any kind of merchantable Country Produce, and the **HIGHEST PRICES** will be allowed for the same in exchange for Goods. He desires further to say to the Farmers of this section that having formed business relations with some of the largest and most reliable commission houses he will, at this Depot, attend to the forwarding and sale of crops of Tobacco, Wheat, Corn, Oats, &c., guaranteeing sales and making advances of Money or Goods on Produce in hand, and **WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGE WHATSOEVER TO THE FARMER**, receiving his remuneration from the Commission Merchant in the way of a small quota of his commission. **BAGS** furnished when wanted.

JOHN L. PEEK,

Eagle Rock, Va

Mr. **JOSEPH ALLEN** is with me and will be pleased to see and wait on his friends.